





TAGHeuer

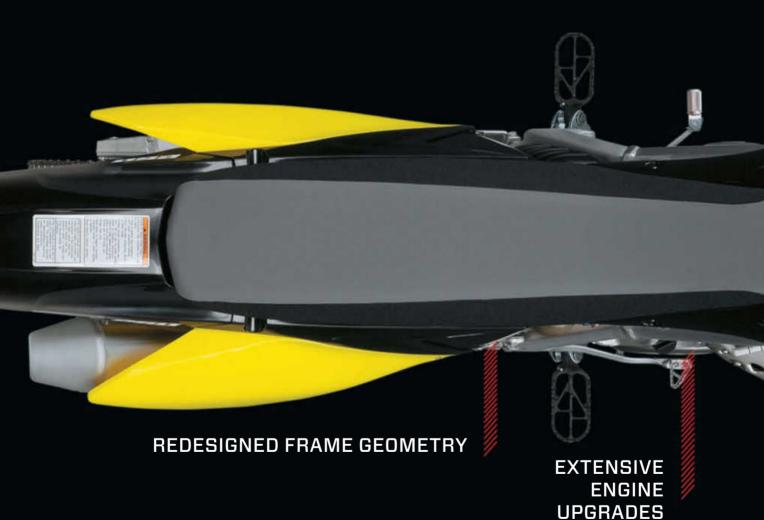
SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860



TAG HEUER FORMULA 1 STEEL & CERAMIC CHRONOGRAPH

Cara Delevingne challenges rules. Being free-minded is her motto. Like TAG Heuer, she defies conventions and never cracks under pressure.

CONTROL



To hold the fastest line you need ultimate control. The new 2016 RM-Z250 is obsessed with handling so you can be obsessed with winning.







THE RED BULLETIN



CHANGE

The autumn season brings change—like starting out this letter with a blatant cliché. It's the kind of writing this magazine's deputy editor. Ann Donahue, would never have tolerated. With *The Red Bulletin* since we launched here in 2011, she's been an irreplaceable member of the U.S. team. She's hung out with freedivers and rock climbers, made awkward small talk with gamers in Seoul and written numerous cover stories including this month's ride with Keanu Reeves. Above all, she's been a rigorous editor with rare writing flair, a hilarious office mate and one of the most efficient and clever editorial minds we've worked with. She's leaving us now but not before delivering most of this issue. We'll miss you, Ann.







WHEEL FAST

Top MotoGP riders have won championships with this Honda. Now you can get to the supermarket with it.



NEW YORK LEGEND

Webster Hall has seen some legendary recordings and broken some surprising acts. And the drinking is decent too.



GAMING SPECIAL

Star Wars: Battlefront, Uncharted 4, a new Street Fighter?! Why going outdoors doesn't look likely in 2016.



Confessions of an ex-Sex Pistol. Life advice from John Lydon, aka Johnny Rotten.

BULLEVARD

14 BEST OF 2015 The year's top performers in top photos

FEATURES

40 Keanu Reeves

The box office draw and his quest to build the perfect bike

50 Baron Batch

How an injury changed a career path

58 **Ice Swimming**

Subzero temperatures, falling snow ... what's wrong with these people?

66 Heroes of the month

Actor Tim Roth; Peter Capaldi's Dr. Who; rapper Little Simz; Ex-Sex Pistol John Lydon

72 Webster Hall, N.Y.C.

From Al Capone to Skrillex, a look back at some very, very late nights

ACTION!

- 79 SEE IT. GET IT. DO IT. The best travel, gadgets, films, music, games, wheels and events. Plus how to survive a jump from a moving car
- **GEAR SPECIAL** Gaming extravaganza
- 98 MAGIC MOMENT Leap of faith

CONTRIBUTORS INSIDE THIS ISSUE DECEMBER 2015



You might want to take a sweater, just in case.

Cold enough to stop your heart

The entire concept of the sport sounds like something that's a step-by-step violation of an instructional safety video. "Do not strip down to your bathing suit while it is snowing." "Do not jump into freezing cold water." "Do not attempt to swim more than half a mile in the aforementioned freezing cold water." But they do—and this is not just a one-off Polar Bear swim done for kicks on New Year's Day. Photographer Shamil Tanna traveled to Murmansk, Russia, to document the Ice Swimming World Championships. "I've never seen anything like it," Tanna says. "They wear a pair of Speedos and some goggles and push their bodies to the limit of human endurance." Dive in on page 58.

WHO'S ON BOARD



ELLIOTT SMITH
The writer sat down with Baron
Batch, a onetime Pittsburgh Steeler
who was at a crossroads: After an
injury, would he stay with football or
explore his passion for painting?
Batch's vibrant answer is on page 50.



East has been a games writer for 17 years, working for magazines such as GamesMaster and Official Nintendo Magazine before becoming games and eSports editor at redbull.com. Read his 2016 gaming guide on page 92.



THE RED BULLETIN AROUND THE WORLD

The Red Bulletin is available in 10 countries. This is the cover of this month's Swiss edition, featuring fireman, pilot and chef René Schudel.

Read more: redbulletin.com

IN FOCUS BEHIND THE LENS

Keanu Reeves is known as one of the nicest guys in Hollywood.

He proved it during a complicated one-day photo shoot two locations hours apart, multiple trailers to transport gear, numerous costume changes—as he collaborated with lensman Peter Yang to get the best shot. See the results on page 40.





Flying in a Red Bull Air Race means speeds up to 230 mph and pulling up to 10Gs – and it's all captured in the G-Metrix overlays. VIRB XE not only gives you rich, HD footage to relive the experience, it adds synched data overlays to tell a better story. VIRB XE, the official action camera of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship.

For more information visit garmin.com/virb.



THE RED BULLETIN WEB HIGHLIGHTS



EXCLUSIVELY ON REDBULLETIN.COM



SHE SHOULD BE AS **FAMOUS AS SERENA**

Gwen Jorgensen has won 12 consecutive International Triathlon Union races—a winning streak unmatched in any sport by any athlete, male or female. redbulletin.com/gwenjorgensen



THE ORIGINAL PARTY PALACE

Webster Hall is New York's most legendary and iconic nightclub. Its current owner, Lon Ballinger, gives us his golden rules for partying in the Big Apple. redbulletin.com/websterhall

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BULLEVARD



SHE'S BACK!

Alpine Skiing World Championships, Beaver Creek

February 3, 2015: Lindsey Vonn raises her arms with joy as she crosses the finish line in Beaver Creek, Colorado. But her celebration was about more than winning bronze in the super-G—this was a personal triumph after the hardest comeback of her career. Two years after suffering a serious injury, the queen of skiing is back, with a season record of eight wins *and* a new world record for the greatest number of victories (67) in the women's World Cup.





RIDING THE WAVE

Pipe Dream, Tahiti

It has to be the stunt of the year: Robbie Maddison surfing the monster waves of the Pacific ... on his dirt bike. The video became a worldwide hit in August. "I'd never had such a strong sense that I was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Maddo said, after being swallowed up by the ocean several times. "I really did think that this might be the end of my life."

robbiemaddison.com









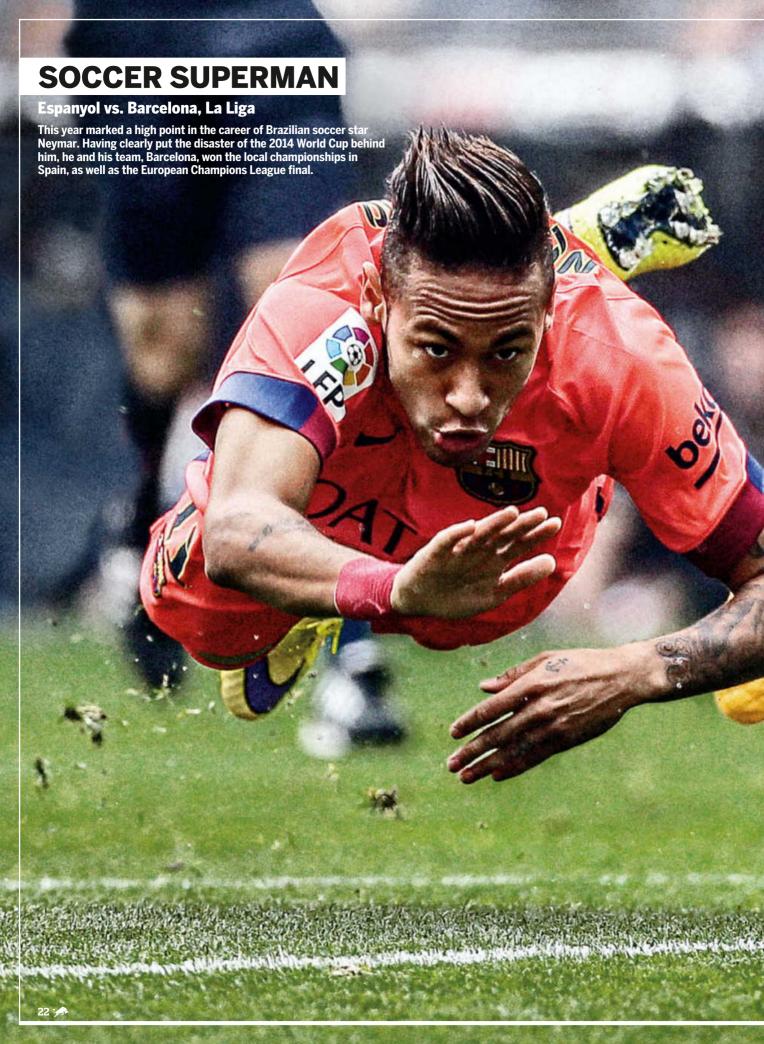


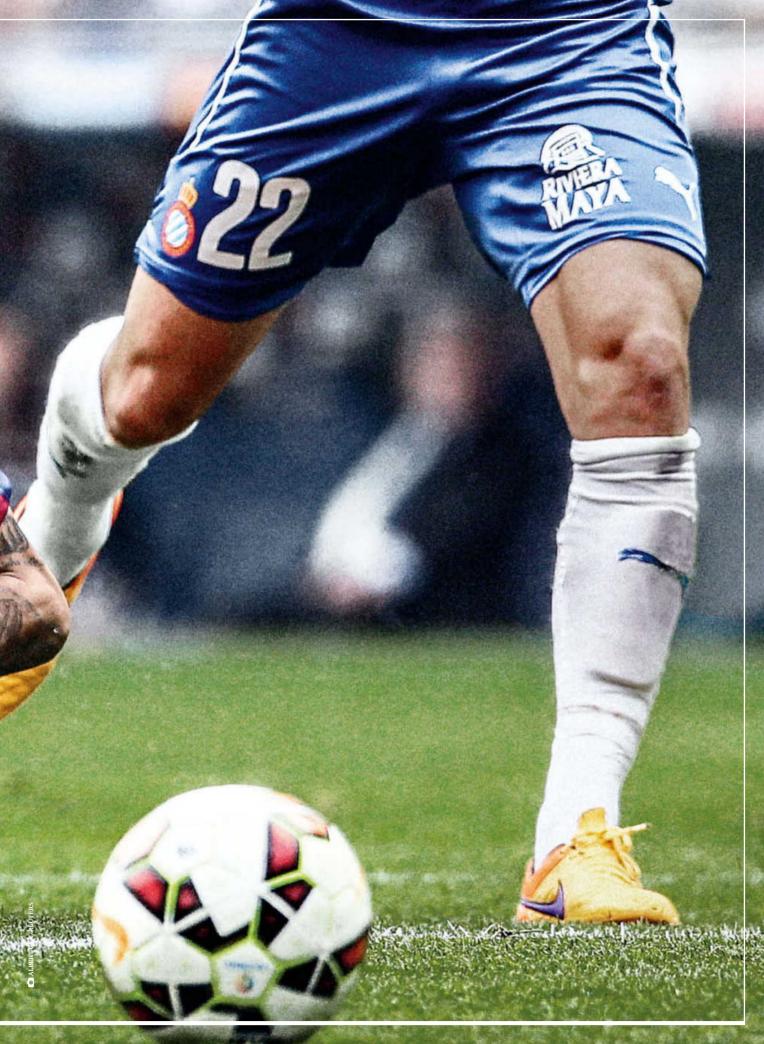


WHAT WINNING LOOKS LIKE

IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships, Prague

In ice hockey, when gloves and sticks are strewn about, it often means fists are flying. But this shot tells a very different story. It shows the rink at the O2 Arena in Prague on May 17, just minutes after the World Championship final between Canada and Russia. This is the aftermath of Team Canada's victory celebration.

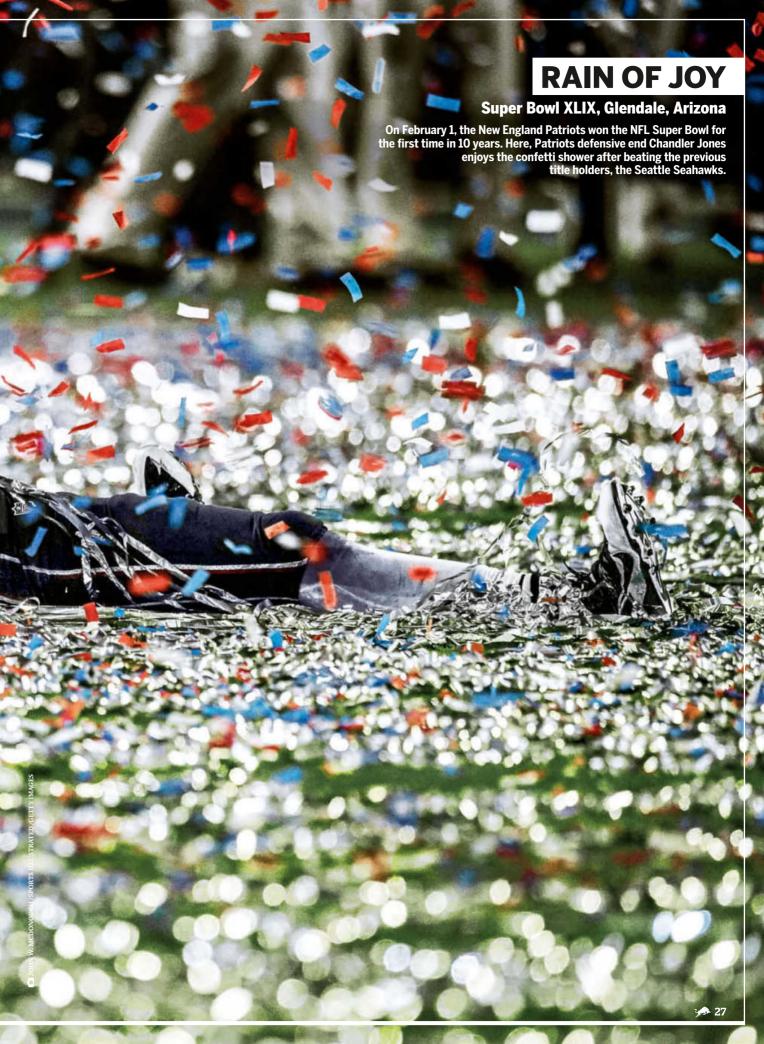










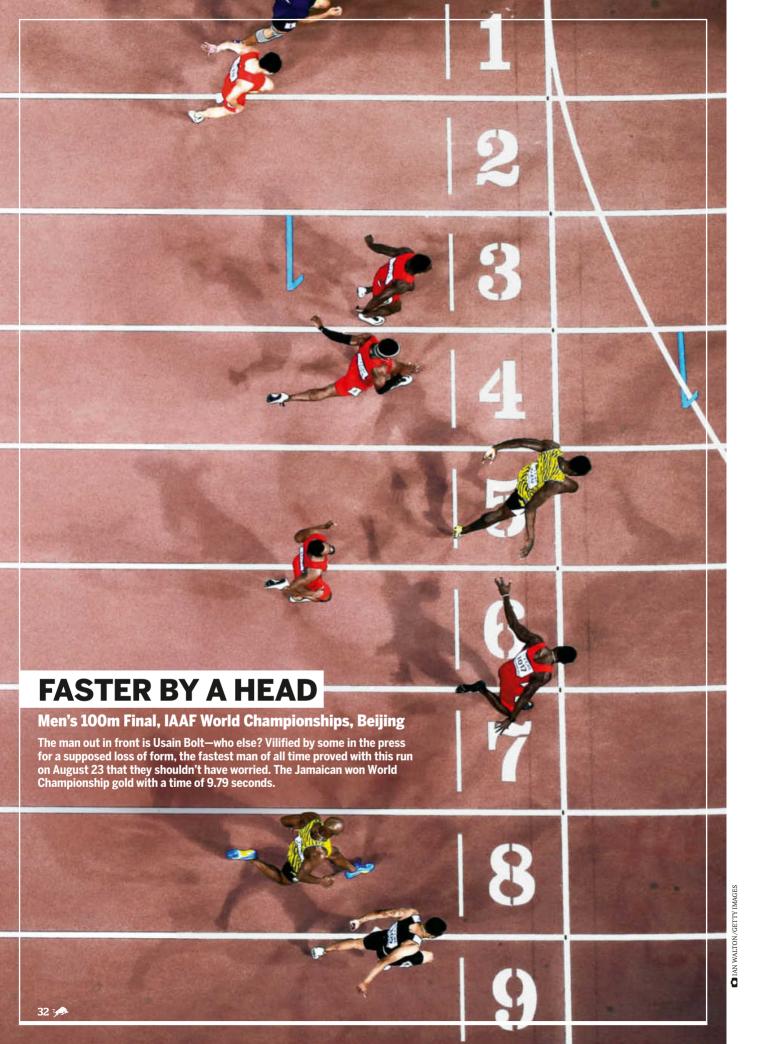










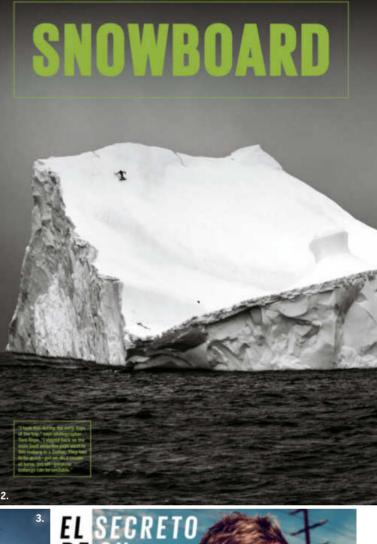




AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE RED BULLETIN

From subzero antics in the Antarctic to top-secret missions in the heat of the Philippine jungle, from the highest mountains to the depths of the desert, The Red Bulletin travels to remote locations to interview the fearless people going farther and faster than anyone else.





1. TAHITI

June, French edition

World championship hopeful Michel Bourez explains why jiu-jitsu makes him a better surfer.

2. ANTARCTICA

January, U.S. edition

Photographer Tero Repo takes snowboarders to Antarctica and brings us these amazing, exclusive photos of them riding icebergs.

3. ZERMATT

May, Swiss edition

We accompany Air Zermatt, the world's top mountain rescue team, on life-and-death missions.

4. LOS ANGELES **April, Mexican edition**

Three years after Awolnation's single "Sail" went platinum, frontman Aaron Bruno gives his first interview on the subject of his new album, Run.

5. CALIFORNIA September, South **African edition**

We present an action-packed portrait of rodeo clowns-men who may look



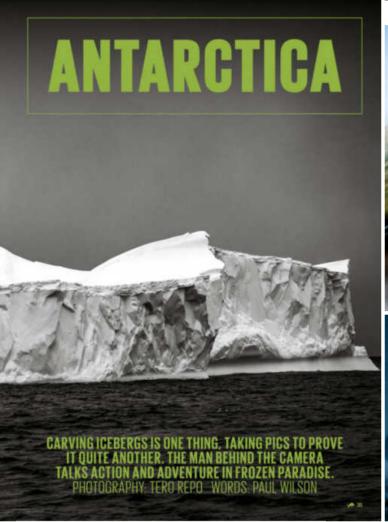


Romeo T33, retracing the Targa Florio's tire marks.

7. ALASKA

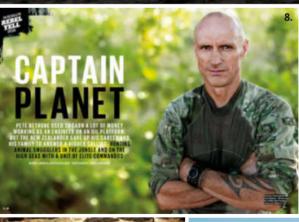
February, U.K. edition

In deepest Alaska, there are rock















faces that no one has ever skied. Until Jon DeVore came flying in ...

8. THE PHILIPPINES July, New Zealand edition Pete Bethune pursues animal smugglers in the jungle and on the high seas. The Red Bulletin

tailed him.

9. LAS VEGAS August, Brazilian edition Swallowing dust and guzzling sand: a report from the legendary Mint

10. LOS ANGELES
October, Austrian edition
We put Everest star Jason Clarke
in an 860 hp truck and discuss the

merits of fame versus adventure.

11. MADAGASCAR November, South Korean edition

400 desert off-road race.

Photographer Alan van Gysen goes to Madagascar with a group of top surfers to seek out undiscovered surfing spots.

THE RED BULLETIN 5-25

HERO SELFIES

Some of our favorite sports stars sent us their selfies. They're more spectacular than Kim Kardashian's backside and more action-packed than the latest James Bond movie.

For more sports star selfies, go to redbull.com





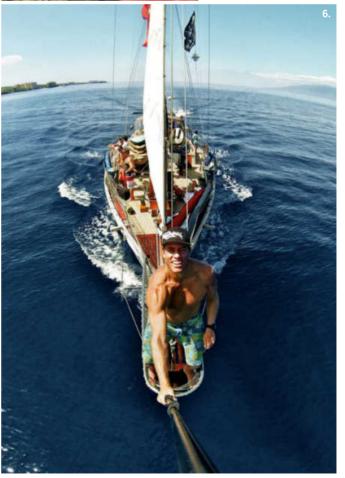








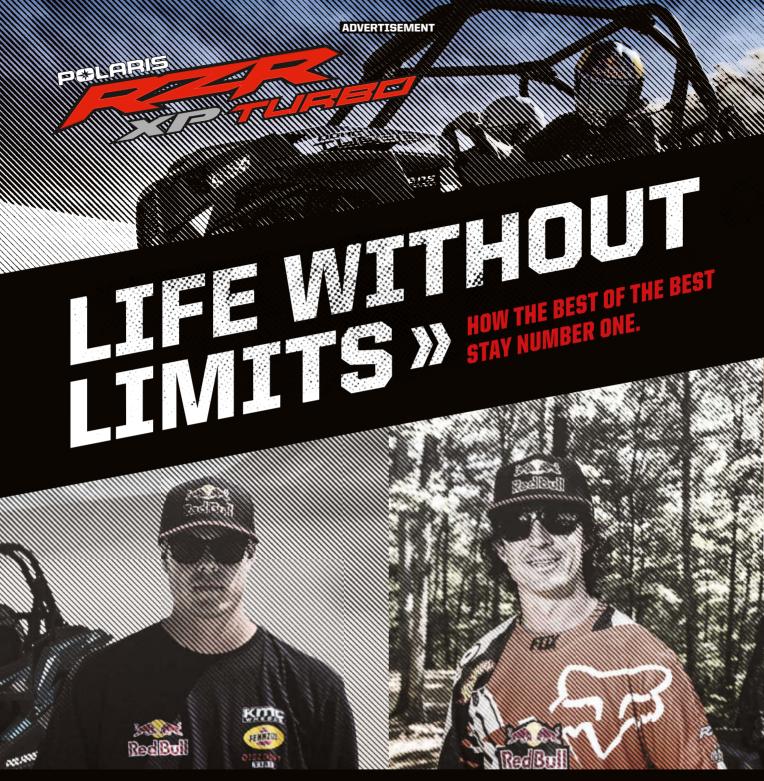
4. Kayaker Rafa Ortiz fights the effluent from Willy Wonka's chocolate factory. 5. Biker Andi Tillmann shoots from the hip. 6. Surfer Chuck Patterson is the king of the world.





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BRYCE MENZIES 3x Baja 500 Winner

🌃 The last 1000 had so much power I didn't see how [Polaris] could make it even better, but they did! "

DISCIPLINE » Off-Road Racing

RIDE SPOTS » Baja California Peninsula

and Dumont Dunes, NV

RIDE PARTNERS » Family and friends

FOLLOW » @brycemenzies7

RONNIE RENNER 9x X Games Gold Medal Winner

Not only is it smooth and fast in the power department, the handling and suspension are perfection. 🎜

DISCIPLINE » Freestyle MotoX

RIDE SPOTS » Glamis Sand Dunes, CA

RIDE PARTNERS » I'd like to think that I ride with everybody. Some of the group rides at Camp RZR® were the coolest experiences I've had.

FOLLOW » @rendawgfmx

A LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS ISN'T JUST BORN. IT'S BUILT. It's about overcoming mental barriers, pushing boundaries of about overcoming mental barriers, pushing boundaries of about overcoming fun doing it. For the athletes of a daily basis and having fun doing it to the top, answering a daily basis and have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, answering the world who have worked their way to the top, and the world who have worked their way to the top.

MY RZR XP® TURBO

HAS BROUGHT **NEW**

NO LIMITS LIFESTYLE. 55

MOTIVATION TO MY

Global powersports icons Ronnie Renner and Bryce Menzies are proof that the only obstacles to seeing your dreams come true are how far, and how often, you're willing to follow your passions.

Freestlye MX and Off-Road Racing not only taught the two what it means to be in the winner's circle, but also what it means to stay on top. Because the fact is, every person to finish first in a race started at the same place at the same time.

The off-road industry's most complete machine was born of this same driving spirit. It started in 2007 when **Polaris RZR*** was introduced as an engineering marvel designed to power through

wooded trails and carve a new name deep in the desert floor. This was the beginning for a new breed of side-byside enthusiasts that changed the landscape

of the off-road community at large.

For both Renner and Menzies, a life without limits is really about helping to foster this thriving off-road community. One where pushing the limits is king. And with that in mind, *RZR*° set out to create a new kind of off-road leader that's ahead of anything the world has ever seen before — the **Polaris**° *RZR* XP° Turbo.

"Polaris listens to its community, takes feedback and changes their machines based on that. People feel like it's one big family," says Bryce Menzies, whose passion for the

off-road lifestyle comes naturally. Renner, one of the great personalities and Champions of Freestyle MX has a similar vision: "Polaris RZR" is the most dedicated and consistently evolving manufacturer. I think people see that. The new Polaris" RZR XP" Turbo is hands down the industry leader – by a landslide."

Not only does the *RZR* XP[®] Turbo represent what it means to own the off-road. It also finds its

way into other aspects of riders' lives. "The power to weight ratio, the handling, the versatility — it's incredible," said Menzies. "I can train and progress in my RZR" because it responds just

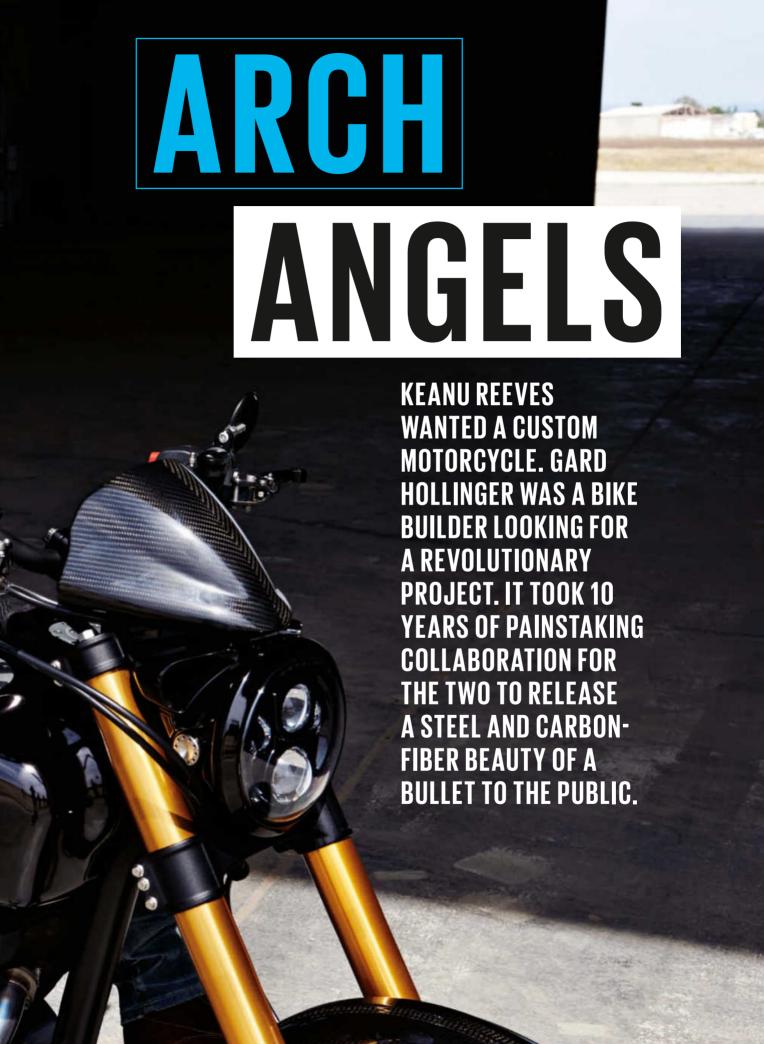
RONNIE RENNER

like my trophy truck. It makes me a better racer."

When you're ready to try something new, go big and have fun, do it in good company of the brand that's made it all possible. Because living the *RZR** lifestyle is about discovering new paths alongside a like-minded community. Menzies said it best, "A life without limits means pushing yourself to the next level and going farther than you previously believed you were capable of."

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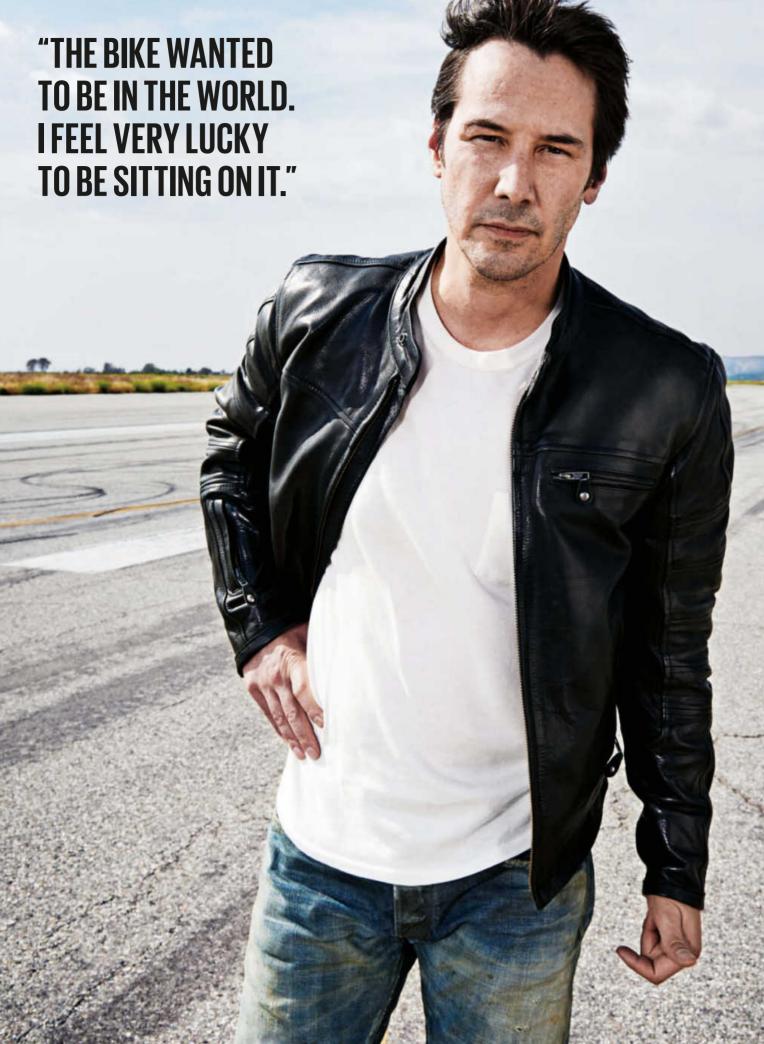


FOR DECADES, MOTORCYCLES HAVE BEEN KEANU REEVES' OBSESSION AND RESPITE. IT WAS TIME TO BUILD HIS OWN.

Above: Reeves'
business partner,
Gard Hollinger, is
poised for takeoff
on a runway at the
Marine Corps Air
Station El Toro in
Irvine, California.
Right: A stripped
down KRGT-1.











scalability of manufactured parts and safety regulations. The what-ifs are endless—and yes, even movie stars can have doubts: What if the bike is pretty but is terrible to ride? What if it's great on the road but looks like a tank? Worse still, what if the bike just doesn't work and the project goes in the junk drawer that's already full of toys created by celebrity dilettantes?

"The reality is that you have to be willing to fail a lot to succeed," says Hollinger. "You just have to keep going and keep going and keep going."

When all was said and done, it took almost 10 years for the KRGT-1 to go from concept to sale, a decade of back-and-forth between two perfectionist bike enthusiasts. The bike is all about the thrill of riding, but it's also an emblem of the resilience required during collaborative work.

"When I've been riding it, I've had a couple of people yell, 'That is the most amazing motorcycle I've ever seen!' which is fun," says Reeves. "There was something about it that—and this is my expression—the bike wanted to be in the world. I feel very lucky to be sitting on this machine."

THE RED BULLETIN: How did you guys meet?

KEANU REEVES: I had a 2005 Harley Dyna Wide Glide and I was looking to customize it. I'd done some brochure customizing, so that was Rookie Mistake 101, and then I went to Rookie Mistake 102, which was when I was introduced to Gard, I asked him for a sissy bar [a passenger backrest], and he said, "I don't do that." And then I said, "What do you do?" and he graciously showed me around his shop. Maybe a little reluctantly?

GARD HOLLINGER: I'll just let him tell the story. He always makes it sound like I interrogated him.

REEVES: You did. You were a salty dog, man. A salty motorcycle veteran. Gard has a company called L.A. County Choprods, and he'd been customizing motorcycles for more than 20 years.

HOLLINGER: It was one of those things that once you decide you're going to do it your way, you are going to do it your way even if you starve. I said no to a lot of work. It wasn't even personal. Of course, when Keanu had an appreciation of that, it was ...

REEVES AND HOLLINGER, SIMULTANEOUSLY: "What do you want to do?" **REEVES:** Originally, I said I wanted a bike to go on trips, that could handle well, that had a V-Twin engine and would have saddlebags. And he looked at me again like [shakes his head sadly] and then there was a little more interrogation. **HOLLINGER:** I put in a lot of effort to get to what he originally asked for, but we'd get to these points where the connection

between the function and the form wasn't happening. He was always great about saying: "No, don't change the form! We'll change the function a bit." How long did the back and forth take? **REEVES:** The prototype started to get built in 2007. Once it arrived, we both rode it and thought it was pretty special. The way the ergonomics, the handling worked, I'd never ridden a bike like that. **HOLLINGER:** And then I did the typical Hollinger thing.

REEVES: Which one?

HOLLINGER: Where I go, "Let's just finish this one bike. We can talk about making more later, maybe."

REEVES: That's the thing. It's a shared passion with a push-pull of process. Gard does all the building and making a dream a reality, so it's easy for me to say, "Here's a dream!"

HOLLINGER: It's a challenge to make a production motorcycle, but that's part of the attraction. There are so many more considerations and restraints than building a one-off. Safety things: Where do you position the lights? All of that is way more challenging than building one work of art. It's like that Maserati joke: It's beautiful to drive to your mechanic's garage. **HOLLINGER**: We wanted that same feeling,

but have it be reliable. **REEVES:** We wanted to offer something unique, not only aesthetically but also about the pleasure of riding.

And as Test Rider No. 1, what was vour feedback?

REEVES: I'm Test Rider No. 2. Gard is Test Rider No. 1.

HOLLINGER: Truth be told, he rides it more. **REEVES:** It's a way I can participate. I'm not a mechanic, I don't have any engineering experience. I have a little bit of seat time, so I can talk about that, how the bike feels. I gave some feedback on the seat. The first time I said: "I think the bike should have signals." I don't think Gard had ever built a bike with signals. **HOLLINGER:** He's being modest. He always has a lot of feedback. I think he has to temper his wish list a bit because he doesn't want to overwhelm me. His thoughtfulness and passion for riding was a huge part to what caused me to commit to do it. I've ridden my whole

experience, I was struck and impressed

I've been riding, I've been taking it for

The price tag for the bike packs a punch at \$78,000, but the reviews from the automotive press have been very positive. How does that make you feel?

REEVES: It's part of the reason to do it. It's what you hope for, what you aim for. It's not like any other motorcycle. You're on a sweeping turn, at an extreme lean angle, and you're comfortable—there's no machine like that bike that does that. Between the two of you, you have more than half

a century of riding experience. What's going through your mind when you're going fast?

REEVES: I've only gone over 125 mph a couple of times. I had a Suzuki GSX-R750, so that touched that a few times. I did it on a two-lane New York state highway. I did 135 mph. It was pretty interesting.

Were you scared or was it [maniacal laugh]?

REEVES: For me, those two go together.

HOLLINGER: You know when you get scared because that's when you back off. I think fast is relative. Fast for the conditions can be 40 to 50 mph; you can feel like you're near the edge. Is riding a respite for you from the Hollywood lifestyle? **REEVES**: For me, it's integrated into how you live your day. When I get on the bike, it's a place to think. [To Hollinger] I mean, you probably do that. You just ride and think. Or not? HOLLINGER: I feel that was something Keanu gave back to me. It had just become kind of rote for me. You know, if you're a cobbler, the last thing you want to see is a pair of shoes. That was nice to get back. Now if I don't have to drive a car, I won't. What's been the best motorcycle ride you've taken? **HOLLINGER**: The next one.

REEVES: If it's Arch connected, it was when we were in Austin, Texas, for Formula One—it was the first time Gard and I had gone out on the bikes. I kept asking people, "Where can we ride?" Someone said Marble Falls [northwest of the city], and we found ourselves on these two-lane roads going 100 mph. I was laughing in my helmet because they were so perfect for the bike. It was cool to be taking a ride with Gard after so many years of developing the bike. It was the birth. We were bringing it out into the world and doing what we'd hoped, which was going for a ride on this amazing machine.

Reeves rolls on the KRGT-1, a motorcycle he says is like no other. Inset: The dream team of Reeves and Hollinger.



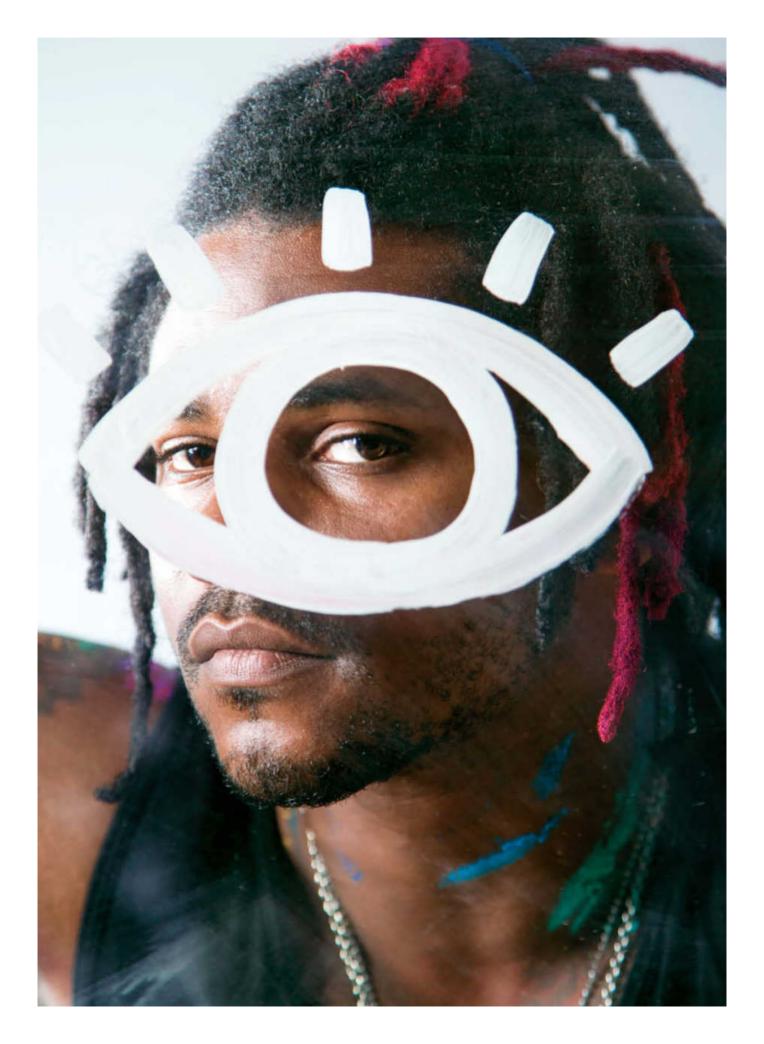
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GAME GHANGER

WITH HIS SPEED AND STRENGTH, BARON BATCH'S CAREER PATH WAS OBVIOUS. HE WOULD BECOME A PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER. ONE PROBLEM: HE WAS HAPPIER WHEN HE WAS PAINTING.

WORDS: ELLIOTT SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTT GALVIN





The Leader

ittsburgh is a city of hills—stand atop the right one and in the distance you can see the lights of Heinz Field, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers, shining like a beacon in this football-crazed city.

Eight miles away, in his art studio, Baron
Batch does not see the lights, both by geography and by choice. Batch, 27, a

Batch does not see the lights, both by geography and by choice. Batch, 27, a chimerical battering ram/cheetah who could run the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds, was once considered to be the running back of the future for the Steelers. But now he's reinvented himself, literally and figuratively, as The Artist.

"WHEN I STARTED PAINTING, IT JUST CLICKED. MY FOCUS WENT FROM FOOTBALL TO SOMETHING ELSE."





The King in I

"ART IS WHAT I WANTED TO DO. NO ONE BELIEVED ME."

After his senior year at Texas Tech University, Batch was drafted by the Steelers in 2011, and his stated goal was to become "The Man in Pittsburgh." But when Batch tore his ACL during the last practice of training camp, necessitating a yearlong rehab stint, he found himself being pulled toward a passion that had long been ignored.

"The moment I started painting, it just clicked," he recalls. "The minute I got back into it, my focus from football just went to something else. I don't do things just to do things. I don't put my energy into things I don't see a reason for. So I was just kind of torn between something I was really good at that I liked and something I wasn't very good at that I loved."

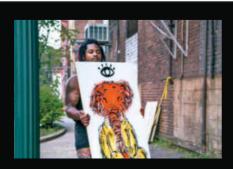
How do you excel at Plan B when you realize the Plan A of your life isn't a true fit? For Batch, the answer was obvious. He was The Artist, and in order to succeed, he had to overhaul his life and dedicate himself to his passion. No regrets, no second guessing. "I made up my mind I was done playing," Batch says. "I told my agent, 'I think I'm done.' A lot of guys say that, but no one believes you. Art is what I want to do. No one believed me."

fter hanging up his cleats and turning down several teams interested in bringing him back, Batch holed up in his house for six months and worked on his art. Inspired by Vincent van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, Banksy, Andy Warhol and Dr. Seuss, he emerged bearing his own style: Pop-X.



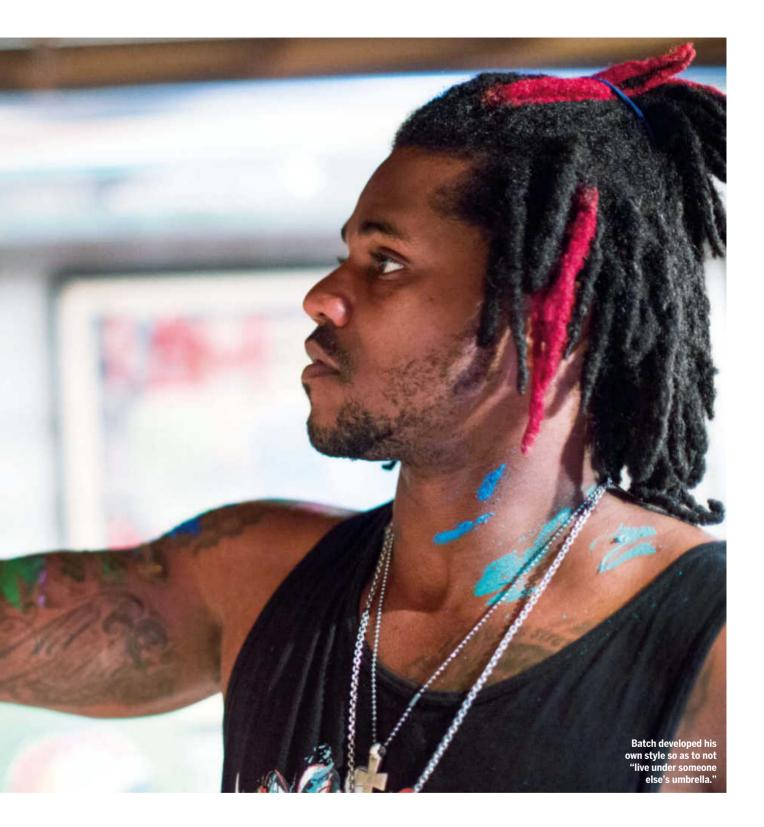
ART DROP

After following Batch on social media, Kelsi Hines gets his work for free. "The art is just very vibrant, very eclectic and very unique," she says.



















99 Problems

"It's a mixture of pop art and expressionism," Batch says, while doing pull-ups from an exposed beam in his studio. "I love expressionism because there's no rules to it. I love pop art because there are [rules]. As an artist, that's me. I am this person of extreme structure because of my sports background, but at the same time of extreme noncompliance to the rules, unless they are mine."

Batch found his expressive style and a home, opening his Studio A.M. in Homestead, a former steel town just outside the Pittsburgh city limits that had fallen on hard times after the local mill closed. He believes in the creative energy and resilience of the town, and now his home/studio/restaurant/gallery/gathering place is part of the area's renewal.

"Home, for me, is where I'm free to express myself and the way I express myself is accepted," he says. "Right now, Pittsburgh is home for me because of that."

Batch has left his mark, creating original art for the Pittsburgh Marathon, working with schools and food banks and doing art installations at a variety of locations, including the city's yoga festival and the airport, where he held an all-day painting and musical event titled "Don't Forget to Write." He painted a 12-by-8-foot canvas alongside local musicians while incorporating public suggestions into his work.

"I'm not surprised by it—I'm more humbled by it, that this city has embraced me and lifted me into this position where I'm able to represent it as the voice of art," he says.

n a humid July night in downtown Pittsburgh, a black SUV pulls up just a block away from PNC Park, home of the Pirates. Batch still has the swagger and insouciance ingrained from being an athlete for most of his life, and he slides out of the car, carrying a large board over his head.

On the front is a colorful painting of an elephant seated in a yoga pose, with an all-seeing eye above it. Below the elephant, the words "Be Free" are spray painted in large letters. After Batch surreptitiously leans the painting on a pole beneath a parking sign, a couple of curious onlookers briefly glance at it. Then a young woman comes sprinting in to swoop it up with the joyous glee of a successful treasure seeker.

It's the aftermath of one of the "art drops" that Batch routinely does around



the city, where he posts pictures of giveaway paintings on Instagram and Twitter, leaving clues to their location.

In marketing himself, Batch doesn't shy away from his football-playing past, but he doesn't readily embrace it either. He introduces himself to people as "The Artist" instead of his real name—"I'd be fraudulent if I didn't"—and has shed most of the trappings of his former life. There's a letter from the NFL Players Union sitting on his desk, and Texas Tech wants him to come back and speak to students. But football seems to be a distant memory.

Batch returned from his torn ACL and played for the Steelers in 2012. The next year he was released and opted not to sign with any other team. The city's great hope retired after scoring just one touchdown in the NFL. But remember: No regrets. No second guessing. Full dedication to Plan B. "I don't miss football because I kept doing what I wanted to do," he says. "Never do I think, 'What if?'"

The motto for Batch's Studio A.M is

UP LATE. UP EARLY. NO REGRETS.

"Up Late, Up Early," and his restless energy ensures that nearly every night is filled with the clack of spray paint in a can, brushes gliding over canvas and creative thoughts running through his mind. You need to have that kind of drive to make it to the NFL—and to succeed as a creative force.

"There's a lot of stereotypes about fellow athletes, and it doesn't take long to see that Baron broke the mold," says retired Steelers legend Troy Polamalu, who commissioned Batch to create art for his house. "Baron found something he was just as passionate about. He's known not just as a football player, but as a true artist. That's even better."

pop-x.com

THE RED BULLETIN 5.4



BREAKING THEIGE

WORDS: RUTH MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY: SHAMIL TANKA

A POOL IN A FROZEN LAKE. FREEZING WATER. WITH ONLY SPEEDOS FOR PROTECTION. WELCOME TO THE NEW EXTREME SPORT OF ICE SWIMMING. FOR THOSE BRAVE ENOUGH TO TAKE THE PLUNGE, IT'S AS LIFE-AFFIRMING AS IT IS BRUTAL.

MURMANSK

OSCOW

HRISTOF WANDRATSCH IS SUBMERGED IN THE FORBIDDINGLY BLACK WATER OF AN 82-FOOT-LONG POOL, CUT OUT OF THE THICK ICE OF SEMENOVSKOYE LAKE IN

Murmansk, Russia. His brain is screaming at him to get out of the water. His face is numb. His legs feel as if knives are being pushed into them; his hands and feet are alive with pain. But this is what the German ice swimmer expected—it's what he's spent countless hours training for. Although Wandratsch is aiming to beat the six other men in the lanes alongside him, the real battle is going on in his head. In this brutal environment, it takes mental steel to ignore every primal instinct to flee, and to complete the full 40 lengths of the race. He asks himself a question with each stroke: Are my legs still kicking? Is my form strong? Do I know where I am? As long as the answer is yes, he keeps swimming.

Wandratsch, a champion long-distance swimmer who swam the English Channel in a world-recordbreaking time in 2005, discovered ice swimming in 2013 when searching for a new challenge. The sport is growing rapidly, and 50 swimmers have traveled to Murmansk in northwest Russia from 15 different countries, including Argentina, Australia and Zimbabwe, to compete in the first Ice Swimming World Championships. There are few locations more testing. It's bitterly cold. The vast white expanse of frozen lake is flanked by rows of white-topped, unmistakably Soviet housing blocks and leafless trees. A kilometer—a .6-mile race—is a marathon by ice-swimming standards, and to survive in these temperatures requires total focus. The driving snow hits freezing water and exposed flesh; the swimmers are armed only with a pair of Speedos, goggles and a swimming cap. This is man versus cold in the purest sense. "There will be pain," said Wandratsch before the race. "But that's the test. You must be strong in your mind. You can't be afraid of the water." Here, there's good reason to be scared. This is the Arctic Circle. Russian Lapland. Here, the water can kill you.

Ice swimming is defined as a swim that takes place in water of 41°F or below. Although dipping into ice water is traditional in countries such as Russia and Finland, long-distance events are new, a world away from revelry and shots of schnapps. "Ice swimming requires a unique skill set," says Patrick Corcoran, from Ireland, who's been ice swimming for











"THE SWIM ISN'T OVER UNTIL THE RECOVERY IS OVER. PEOPLE LOOK RIGHT THROUGH YOU WHEN THEY COME OUT—I CALL IT THE DEVIL'S STARE."

almost a year. "An ice kilometer is the Everest of swimming. It's not about being fast, it's about mental energy. An Olympic swimmer wouldn't last a second in this water. Your mind is screaming, 'Get out of here!' You feel like Shackleton on an expedition. Then comes the recovery—the swim accounts for only 35 percent of the total effort; 65 percent comes afterwards. You have to fight your way back into the world. It's extreme."

Recovery is a grueling and painful process that has to be precisely managed by a team to prevent full-on hypothermia. Swimmers emerge from the ice water unable to use their frozen hands or feet; they can't dress themselves or stand upright unaided. Their speech is slurred and the blood has drained from their extremities to protect their core. "Coming back," as most refer to it, can take anywhere from 20 minutes to three hours, depending on the length of the swim and the swimmer's experience. "The swim isn't over until the recovery is over," says South African competitor Ram Barkai, founder of the International Ice Swimming Association (IISA). "People look right through you when they come out—I call it the devil's stare. Recovery is like an outof-body experience. Your core temperature drops as cold and warm blood mix, which feels like the drop on a roller coaster. You learn to fight it."

Barkai is an indefatigable former hedge-fund trader and self-styled adventurer who, among many other challenges, has swum the .6-mile distance in Antarctica and Siberia, the latter at -27°F. In the six years since he founded the IISA, Barkai has codified the sport with official rules and safety guidelines, paving the way for these inaugural World

Championships. "If you push too hard, the ice will win," he says. "People ask why we push the limits, but they don't understand that we plan every detail. We take safety precautions. None of us have a death wish. This isn't guts and brawn. You need to know your limits, trust your team."

Safety here is paramount. A short walk from the ice pool, a children's activity center has been transformed into ice-swimming HQ. Policemen in navy fur hats, clutching black batons, keep all but the official competitors and their teams from the front steps. Inside, a warm wood-paneled wet room contains swimmers in various phases of recovery after their (somewhat ironically named) heats. They're tended to by a continuous relay of shirtless, tattooed Russians who cover the swimmers in warm towels to gradually bring them back from wherever their ice swim has taken them. Outside this room is the medical assessment area, its walls covered with children's paintings. The pictures appear at odds with the severe-looking nurses in white uniforms, and the nervous-looking swimmers waiting for the obligatory electrocardiogram before racing. Behind a green curtain, sole Chinese competitor Jiangming Zhu, a steel-company worker, is sitting with his Russian translator. Zhu's ECG has revealed an irregular heart rhythm, and the two are having a frantic conversation via the Google Translate app on his iPad. The message is clear: He won't be allowed to race.

It's a blow for Zhu. Despite the pain and risk, ice swimmers get something from this sport that's hidden from those yet to embrace it. "People may not understand the appeal," says Wyatt Song, a 38-year-old from Sydney, Australia. "But when you're doing things at your limit, you feel more alive. You really get to know yourself at zero degrees. As soon as you enter the water, you're fighting that cold shock, and during that fraction of a second you realize what you can endure. The euphoria afterwards is incredible. It's addictive." Several swimmers use the word "addiction" when describing the euphoric, endorphin-fueled feelings that sweep over them once they've recovered. More enduring are the lessons that can be taken back to dry land. "What you learn, where you have to go mentally, definitely feeds into



From left:
Irish competitor
Ger Kennedy;
Vyacheslav Zonov of
Murmansk Walrus
Club; Ram Barkai,
founder of the
International Ice
Swimming
Association; World
champion Christof
Wandratsch.



"YOU HAVE TO ENGAGE THE FIGHT. INSIDE, WE'RE WARRIORS. FEAR ISN'T A REALITY, FEAR IS AN EMOTION, AND YOU HAVE TO PARK IT. THEN YOU REAP THE REWARDS."

your everyday life," says South African Ryan Stramrood. "I look at life very differently now. I've learned the benefits of leaving my comfort zone. Without this sport, I wouldn't have pitched for half the business I have. Now I go in balls-to-the-wall."

The participants here all came to ice swimming with their own motivations. Russian competitor Alexander Brylin heard it could help him give up alcohol, so he cut his own ice pool in a local lake; Estonian financial-risk analyst Henri "Ice Machine" Karma, the unofficial world champion over a kilometer, wanted stress relief: "I ran into the 37°F seawater one November evening and felt alive," he says. Rory Fitzgerald, from the U.K., wanted to progress from Christmas Day dips—now he trains in icy lakes in Snowdonia. Swimmers from South Africa and Ireland often head to local fisheries to get the ice used for storing fish and make a resistancebuilding ice bath. Now, in Murmansk, all are united in the 1 kilometer challenge. "You train to be strong, physically and mentally," says Irish competitor Nuala

Moore. "You have to engage the fight. Inside, we're warriors. Fear isn't a reality, fear is an emotion, and you have to park it. Then you reap the rewards."

Wandratsch is sitting in the sauna room, wrapped in warm towels. A few moments ago, he was keeled over on the wooden bench, suffering the inevitable pains of recovery. But now life is coming back. He's sitting up, shivering profusely—a good sign that the body is recovering. Wandratsch has just learned that he's the first ice-swimming world champion. He did it in a time of exactly 13 minutes, beating the previous fastest time of 13 minutes, 53 seconds, set by Henri Karma, who finished third on this occasion. "I've swum the English Channel, distances of 50 miles," says Wandratsch, "so one kilometer should be easy. But this is so different, so painful. I enjoy extremes, though. I don't take silly risks. If you're a marathon runner or pro skier, there's risk, there's pain. You just have to train every day and give it everything you have. The feeling of winning is hard to put into words. I'm very proud. I'm part of iceswimming history."

Later that night, Barkai waits for the elaborate World Championships closing ceremony to begin in the center of Murmansk. "The strange thing about ice swimming," he says, "is that during every swim, I rehearse my retirement speech. I'm 57—I've got nothing to prove. But the euphoria you get from this is so incredible. Tonight we'll sit down, drink a vodka and plan our next adventure."

For more adventures in the frozen lakes of Murmansk, visit redbulletin.com/iceswimming







"VILLAINS HAVE AN IMPACT"

TIMROTH Known for portraying intense characters, the Hateful Eight actor explains why you shouldn't be afraid of being a bad guy.

ne of the great character actors of his generation, Tim Roth displays such skill and nuance that he's become a favorite with moviegoers despite playing a vile assortment of killers, creeps and cunningly awful miscreants. In Quentin Tarantino's latest gorefest, The Hateful Eight, he plays a hangman who, conveniently, can also handle a gun quite well. Here, the 54-year-old discusses why it's important and a hell of a lot of fun-to creatively explore the dark corners of life.

THE RED BULLETIN: I found a photo gallery online of your performances. In 80 percent of them, you're holding either a gun or a sword. What attracts you to being the bad guy?

TIM ROTH: The first thing I played was a Nazi skinhead. I was the bullied kid at school. I was always on the run. I knew how to play the bullies from watching them. Those characters tend to stand out. They have an impact, as compared to something very,

very quiet that you do.

What does it say about us as a society that we remember the bad guy instead of the contemplative character?

It depends what you're going to the cinema for. That kind of scenery-chewing stuff, if it's done well, it's such fun to sit in the audience and watch. As Quentin says, you're going to the movies, it's not public television.

I always enjoy the dark humor in Tarantino's work. You grimace, then you laugh. Does that make it less intense? the racism is just astounding. They're not hiding it; they're trying to outdo each other. It just makes [the movie] more poignant.

It seems like a way to double the impact: playing the memorable bad guy in a movie with a message. Is it important to you to seek out roles that have a broader social commentary?

It's better if they do. But then sometimes you're just doing crap. [Laughs.] The next film I'm doing [for the BBC] does have relevance—it's about a man, Reg Keys, whose son was a military police officer in Iraq. He was due back in a few days and he was killed. And then the father starts

Do you ever take the roles home with you?

My wife sometimes goes "Oh God, you look spooky right now." That's happened a few times. There was one timewhen I was working with [director] Michael Haneke and we were doing [home invasion hostage drama] Funny Games. It was shot in sequence, so you start the day, and you get distressed. You pick it up the next day, you get more distressed. All the way through the film, for five or six weeks. That one beat us up. Oh boy, that was a tough one. It was very depressing. When I read it, I didn't want to do it. I watched the Germanlanguage version and I was

"IT'S BETTER IF ACTING ROLES HAVE A BROADER SOCIAL IMPACT. BUT THEN SOMETIMES YOU'RE JUST DOING CRAP."

It's not creepy on set—actually, most of the time, you're laughing your ass off ... The Hateful Eight [set in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War] is funny, and incredibly timely. When we were doing the read-through, that's when the Baltimore protests were going down. It was completely apropos of the moment. It was quite shocking, honestly. As the campaign for the GOP nomination goes forward,

to question what happened and sees a link to the Chilcot Inquiry [into the Iraq war]. And the father opens his son's coffin and he sees what happened, and he wants his questions answered. [Prime Minister Tony] Blair wouldn't answer him. So he ran against him in the election and got to confront him onstage in front of the cameras. He took on the government in a very elegant and quiet way.

That's incredibly wrenching.

like, "Oh shit." How did you disassociate afterward?

I got a plane and went away. Next!

What character have you not played that you would like to?

I always liked Iago. That's another bad guy.

He's a great guy! He's a good soldier! [Laughs.]

Ann Donahue

thehatefuleight.com



"PLAYING DOCTOR WHO IS FRIGHTENING"

PETER CAPALDI The award-winning actor and director is used to success. But being in control of the Tardis is another thing altogether.

fter more than 50 years on television courtesy of the BBC, Doctor Who has become a British institution, a cult show that spans generations. For an actor, the role of the Doctor means intense scrutiny from die-hard fans and a whole new level of fame. Peter Capaldi stepped into those large shoes last year as the 12th Doctor, older, darker and more cunning than most before him. As the ninth modern series wraps up, the 57-year-old Scotsman talks fame, risk and taking on the Tardis.

THE RED BULLETIN: Growing up as a die-hard fan of Doctor Who yourself, were you nervous about the huge expectations of the fans when you took on the role? PETER CAPALDI: I was very nervous about playing the part, but I didn't really think about the expectations of the fans. That's never a useful thing to do-it would have only made me more nervous. I just tried to think about playing the part of the Doctor as best as I could.

But it must take guts to showcase your own take on this much-loved character? I don't think he's altered too much. I felt very privileged to have the role, but it was frightening and still is. Were you certain that an older, darker Doctor Who would work?

No, I had no idea. I just had to dive in. You can't secondguess the audience and come up with a version of the Doctor that's just for marketing. You have to come up with your own character, based on how you feel as an

that it is really important not to go out to ask the audience to love you. I think they must find out whether they like you or not. It is a risk. Now that we know they have more than warmed to you, how scary is it to suddenly be the face of such a huge show?

I sort of try not to look down. If I become overconscious of the scale of interest in it, then I think that would make me a difficult person to live with. I mean. I am difficult to live with, but it would make me even worse. I talked to Matt about it the other day. I don't think it's a natural situation to be so easily recognized. And I've spoken to David [Tennant,

it's fine, because you're being given lots of affection. Which Doctor Who would vou most like to go to the pub with?

Myself—I'm always happy to hang out with myself. I don't dislike any qualities about the Doctor. I like the fact that he's tricky and distant, then sometimes he's friendly, sometimes clumsy, and sometimes he's elegant. How was your first Tardis experience as the Doctor? I'd been in the show once with David, in an episode called "The Fires of Pompeii," which I thought would be my only involvement with Doctor Who. I was so pleased to be asked.

In fact, I didn't even read the

"IT SEEMED TO ME THE PREVIOUS DOCTOR WAS A VERY ACCESSIBLE DOCTOR. SO IT SEEMED RIGHT THAT I BE A LITTLE LESS FRIENDLY."

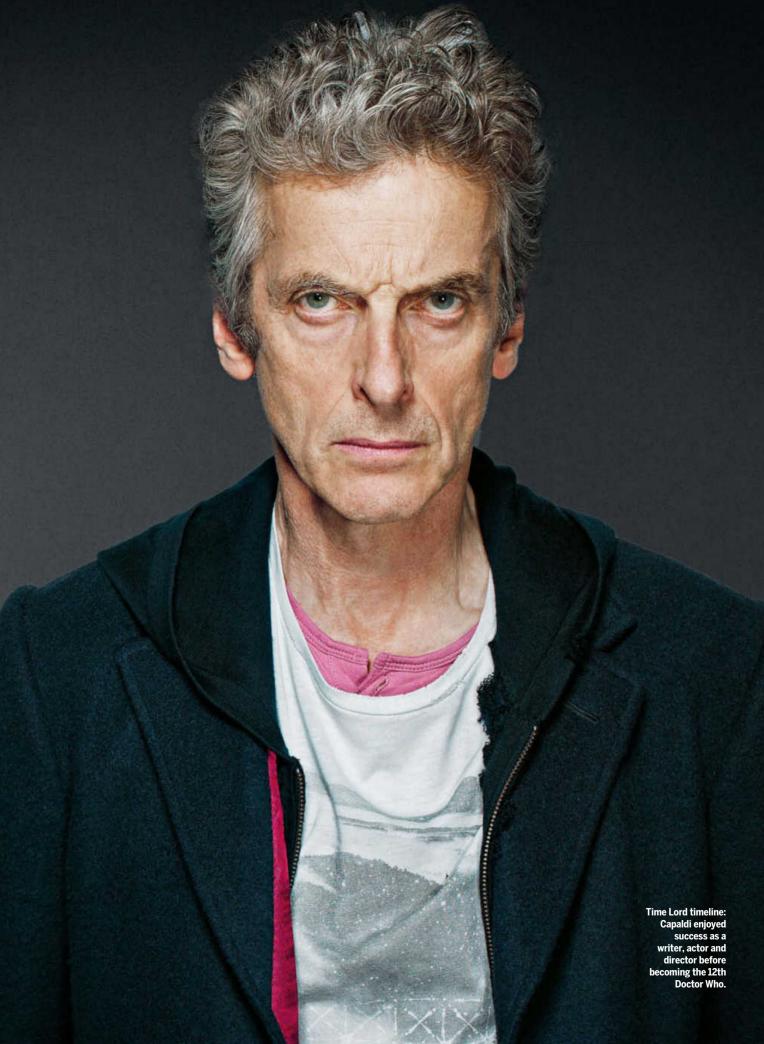
actor, as an artist, and try to be true to that, while at the same time playing the role that Steven [Moffat] writes. It seemed to me that Matt [Smith, the previous Doctor], who I absolutely loved, was a very accessible and friendly doctor. So it seemed right that I be a little less friendly. So you didn't consider the prospect of the audience not warming to you? I didn't want to seek the audience's approval. I think

Dr. Who No. 101, who gave me some advice. I said: "What's going to change?" And he said: "Well, you'll become just incredibly visible." At home in the U.K., that means when you buy groceries or go to the doctor, people look at you all the time and want to chat ... It can't be much fun for the Doctor to get hassled at the doctor's.

It can be a little odd when you are waiting at the surgery, minding your business. But

script. I said: "I just want to do this!" My wife said: "No, you're a professional actor, vou have to read it and see what it's like." So I read it and off I went. David showed me the Tardis, which I found quite moving. I had no idea a few years later I'd be driving it myself. It's very different now because I'm the center of it. It's a wonderful place to be. Holger Potye

bbcamerica.com





"NEVER BE AFRAID TO SAY NO"

LITTLE SIMZ The young London rapper, already being lauded by legends such as Jay-Z, explains why independence is the key to success.

HE RED BULLETIN: Lots of big record companies were keen to release vour debut album. A Curious Tale of Trials + Persons. But in the end you turned down their offers and did it yourself. Why?

LITTLE SIMZ: The music labels didn't get it. They treated me like I was young and naive. They tried to take advantage of me. Not in a creepy way, but I'm too passionate about my music to let someone else handle it if they don't share my vision. Why is independence so

important to you?

We're all part of the big system—that's just how we go through life. Music is my escape from that. So for me, the most important thing is to have control over my thoughts and the feelings I express in my songs.

So true success can only be found on your own terms? Definitely! The problem is that sometimes we don't realize what we want. For instance, if you're watching TV and you're seeing the same things over and over again, subconsciously your mind is taking it all in-the way you should look, act, dress-and you start to conform to that. That's my biggest fear: having a mind that just adapts to whatever I see. I can't stress enough

how important it is to think

your thoughts, to wear the

things you want to wear,

and to go your own way.

Everything else is bullshit.

Where do you find the selfconfidence to say no to the label executives flashing their checkbooks at you? It's how my mum raised me. She would say to me, "It's so easy to say yes, but never be afraid to say no." If you work hard enough and you're good at what you do, an opportunity is never the last chance. It's just a sign that you're on the right path. Don't rush into anything. What does success mean to you personally? What matters to me is the

fact that I can talk about whatever I want without a label executive telling me, "This is what's happening." I'm not worried about sales: at the end of the day, this is my first album, and I don't feel pressure to go platinum, because I'm in it for longevity. I'm the only person who gets to put any pressure on me. Your exceptional flow and rhyme skills have won you praise from hip-hop heavyweights including Kendrick Lamar and Jav-Z. How do you rap so fast? It's something that I've practiced for years and years. It's important to be quick and clear at the same time, so you can hear literally every word.

When I was younger, I'd train my clarity by putting a pen in my mouth when I rapped.

Because you have something that stops you from slurring. That technique helped me

with my breathing, too. Florian Obkircher

How does that help?

is out now; redbull.com/littlesimz



"STAND UP AND **BE COUNTED"**

JOHN LYDON The punk icon tells us how he's still fighting the "shitstem."

Calling John Lydon by his birth name still seems too prim and proper, especially as the 59-year-old ex-Sex Pistol—now touring the U.S. with his band PiL to promote their 10th studio album—continues to rage against the machine.

THE RED BULLETIN: The new album, What the World Needs *Now...*, was released on your own label. Is that thrilling? JOHN LYDON: It's taken decades, but I'm officially unrelated to the "shitstem." Isn't that the most wonderful phrase? I'm not alone ... we're all working to eliminate the shitstem.

How can others battle the shitstem?

Stand up. Be counted. But don't attach yourself to a lie or a trendy belief. Research everything. And then, when you're ready to commit, go ahead, laddie, because I'll be there backing you. As punk's elder statesman, do you have any life advice? We're lucky to have a life. I love being alive. My peers are all dying around me—I suppose they've never got to grips with the life they've got. If I can make music for 100 years, that's success. OK, I'll settle for 70 years. Don't want to be greedy. Ann Donahue What the World Needs Now... is out now; pilofficial.com

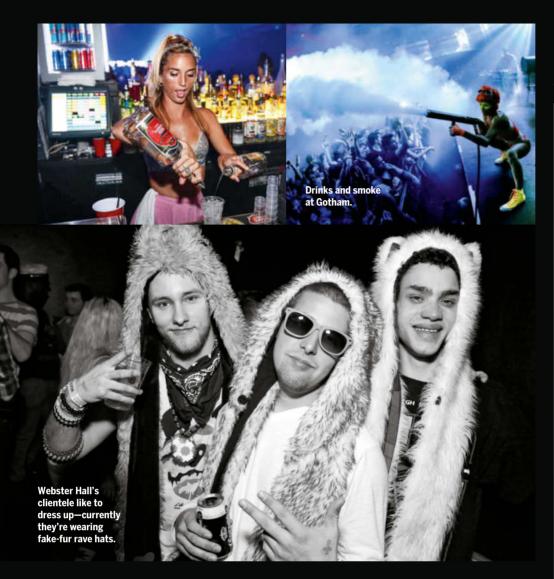
A Curious Tale of Trials + Persons











the oldest photographs of Webster Hall date from that period. The pictures show young people dancing in the Grand Ballroom in white costumes. The kids wanted to express their creativity, and our club granted them their wish.

We had expected you to say 1923, so that you could meet one of your predecessors as club boss, the notorious Al Capone ...

Al Capone controlled the liquor supply in New York during Prohibition, but I don't know if he actually ever did own Webster Hall. What we do know is that the club became a hot spot for illegal parties—a speakeasy where people drank cocktails in secret. Even Franklin D. Roosevelt, who went on to become president, partied at our venue. Politicians turned a blind eye to what was going on here.

Why?

Because nightlife fulfills an important social function: People need a place to go wild. Working all the time just makes people unhappy.

In 1980, Webster Hall became home to the Ritz, which established itself as New York's quintessential rock club. People went mad when Guns N' Roses played a concert here.

Rock stars love the club to this day because we embody the spirit of New York. Everyone is welcome, regardless of the color of their skin. People respect each other. When I saw David Bowie in the club not long back ...

David Bowie parties at your club? He comes here to watch new bands play. Bowie discovered Arcade Fire at their concert here [in 2005]. Years later, he sang on their album.

It's not only indie bands such as Arcade Fire who perform at the club death metal acts and electronic music DJs come here, too. Sometimes on the same day. Do you think that's an unusual mix?

No, because we're creating a lineup for the Spotify generation. The kids respect different music genres, and the mix we have keeps us relevant. Last year, there were 143,000 tweets sent from

130 YEARS OF PARTYING

A WEBSTER HALL TIMELINE

1886

Cigar maker Charles Goldstein commissions the building as a hall for hire, for "balls, receptions, Hebrew weddings..."

1920s

New York's bohemian set parties at decadent masked balls. The press brand Webster Hall "the Devil's Playhouse." Despite the introduction of Prohibition, the drinks continue to flow at the venue. Gangster Al Capone provides the alcohol.

1953

RCA Records buys Webster Hall and opens a recording studio, where Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley cut genredefining tracks, including the latter's "Hound Dog."

1962

An icon's first recording: Bob Dylan plays the harmonica on Harry Belafonte's song "Midnight Special."

1980

Rock club The Ritz opens at Webster Hall. You can watch its most famous live gig—by Guns N' Roses in 1988—on YouTube.

1992

The Ballinger brothers, four nightlife gurus from Canada, buy the venue and put on weekly hip-hop events.

2008-2015

International DJ stars Deadmau5 and Skrillex get their breakthrough at the Girls & Boys night.

2016

Webster Hall's 130th birthday. "We're planning a street music festival," says the club's owner, Lon Ballinger.



Al Capone supplied the booze in the days of Prohibition.



a good idea when they see one. Your weekly Girls & Boys club night, which has been running since 2008, has been the launch pad for a whole string of current superstar DJs: Skrillex, Deadmau5 ...

The guy with the huge mouse mask on his head! I still remember that very well. We paid him \$700 for the gig.

By the latest estimate, Deadmau5 now earns \$15 million a year.

That's our job: helping young acts. Sometimes the gamble pays off and What do you think nightlife will be like 20 years from now?

Maybe there will be interactive video screens hanging up in clubs by then, or we'll be using new social media apps. But actually I don't think all this technology is that important.

Why? Because really clubs are about something else. Men and women want to meet, have fun and see what happens. That's the core of nightlife. And that is never ever going to change.

websterhall.com



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Heli-skiing opens up a whole new world of powdery, untouched runs.

Columbia Mountains, Canada

s, 🖐

Want to take on some of the world's best runs? Head to:



Rotor glory:

Snow beckons

resort.com

CANADA

More to

explore

Ski demon
Still hankering
for more piste
action? Continue
the adventure at
Revelstoke Mountain

Resort: more than

5.500 feet from top

to bottom, with 65

named runs and areas

to choose from.

revelstokemountain

You'll experience some of the best downhills of your life, swooping over open glacier fields and then slaloming down steep forest gullies, up to your waist in fresh, powdery snow. Thanks to the helicopter transfers, you can easily cover 32,000 feet in one day. The only limit is your level of fitness, as the helicopters can take off in any weather, delivering skiers and snowboarders to the summit—which is, somewhat unnervingly, often not much wider than the chopper itself.

The conditions provided by Mother Nature could hardly be better. The Columbia Mountains experience snowfall upwards of 50 feet each season, and the ideal form of the landscape means you can choose between a playful or serious skiing line.

THE INSIDER

"AMBITIOUS SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS SHOULD BOOK INTO THE GALENA LODGE," ACCORDING TO CRI MAIERHOFER. "THE AREA AROUND THERE IS DOTTED WITH LITTLE CRESTS AND CRAGS THAT YOU CAN JUMP OVER."

Cri Maierhofer's

powder selfie



snowboarder who now works for specialist tour operator CMH Heli-Skiing.

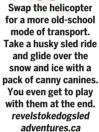
The atmosphere at the lodges is another reason to pony up \$10,000 or more for a week of powder. Despite all the wonderful luxuries on offer—whirlpool baths, sauna, massages, multicourse dinner menus—the whole thing remains relaxed and informal. The millionaire—and there are quite a few of those here—sits next to the guy who does the dishes and talks shop with the pilots and guides about what they've done

that day. And the best thing of all? There's zero cell phone reception, meaning

absolutely all the focus is on finding the

ride of your life.

Dog gone

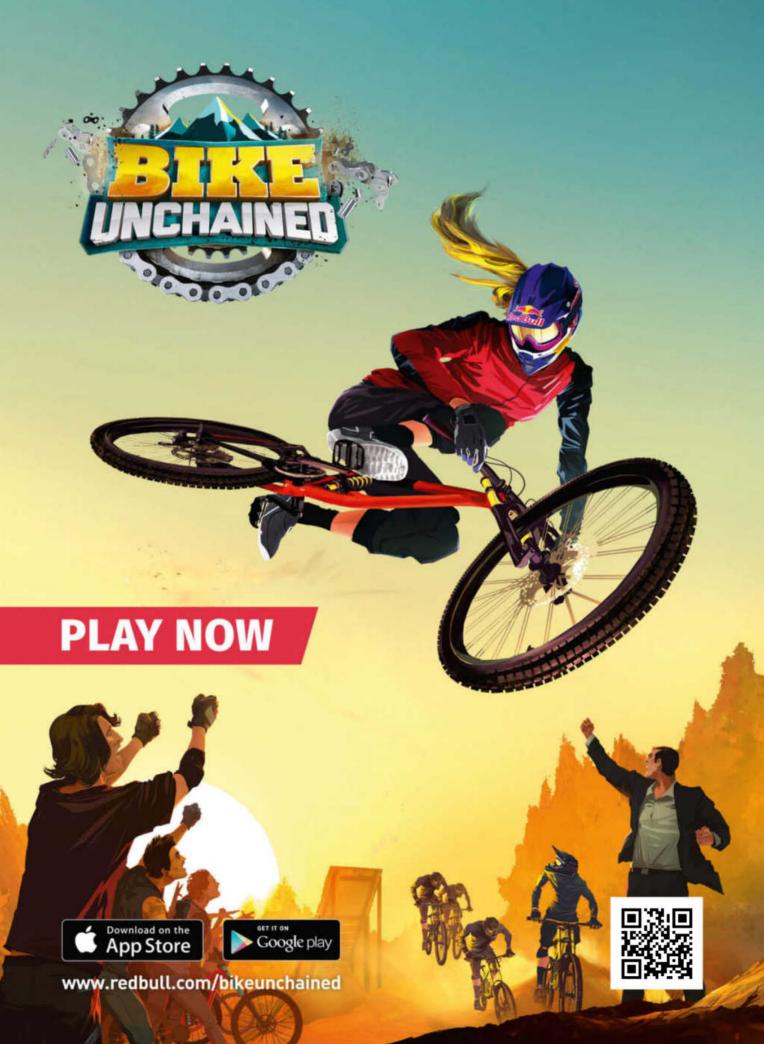




Drift racer

Cruise through the snow with a 60 hp engine between your legs in a snowmobile clinic. A dip in a hot spring is included and the tour finishes with a meaty mountainside BBQ. riderevelstoke.ca







olloclip Active Lens

Upgrade your iPhone's camera with this snap-on photo enhancer. It incorporates wide-angle and telephoto lenses, allowing for both sweeping vistas and great close-ups. olloclip.com



Garmin VIRB XE

Your best shot to get the best shot: This rugged high-def camera doesn't require an external case for underwater use—and it can shoot in wideangle for all you filmmakers. garmin.com



Expecting a shiny new tablet from Santa? This ultraportable Bluetooth keyboard is the ideal companion, rolling (as the name suggests) into a compact cylinder for easy transport. *Ig.com*



BenQ treVolo speakers

This nifty wireless sound system packs a punch thanks to two electrostatic, flat-panel speakers. The bonus? The "wings" can be folded back on the main unit for added portability. benq.com



If you're already prepping your New Year gym regimen, this innovative tool will help track your gains to a tee—providing detailed stats for 24 different muscles around the body. *skulpt.me*



Polaroid Snap

Even in the Age of Instagram, there's nothing quite like the real thing. The Snap is Polaroid's most compact digital camera yet and can instantly print 2x3-inch full-color photos. *polaroid.com*



WATCHES

Edited by Gisbert L. Brunner



GEAR

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE CASIO Edifice EQB-510DC

Smartwatches are big business. In 2014, around 6.8 million of the tech-heavy timepieces were sold worldwide; by the end of 2015, that number is predicted to have more than doubled.

But what if you want the modern features of a smartwatch without ditching the superior styling of a classic chronograph? Look no further than the Edifice EOB-510DC from Casio—a hybrid wristwatch whose smart functions are hidden under a sleek black exterior. The watch communicates with Android or iOS smartphones via Bluetooth 4.0 and the Casio Watch+ app and is aimed particularly at business travelers and globetrotters. By pairing devices, the clock will automatically align the dial to the local time in more than 300 cities around the world. There are also advanced alarm and stopwatch functions, as well as a handy phone finder. If you're not into the Dark Knight look, check out the stainless-steel version (EQB-510D) or the blackand-rose-gold Infiniti Red Bull Racing Special Edition (EQB-510RBM). edifice-watches.com

The Edifice's fluorescent pointers allow you to read the watch in difficult low-light situations. In brighter conditions, the "tough solar" system converts even faint light into ample energy.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Classic style meets modern technology



Magrette Moana Pacific

At a size of just 44 mm, the Moana Pacific by Magrette is able to protect its Japanese automatic-caliber Miyota 9015 up to 50 bars of pressure. The black PVD-coated steel housing with a one-sided, nonlocking rotating bezel also has a helium valve. magrette.com

Frédérique Constant Horological Smartwatch



Analog elegance pairs with smart tech via a Bluetooth/smartphone connection. Features include activity and sleep tracking. frederiqueconstant.com

Bulgari Diagono Magnesium Concept

Bulgari and digital security specialists WISeKey have created the "first luxury wrist vault." Utilizing Near Field Connection (NFC) technology and a high-security smartphone app, it can start your car. bulgari.wis.watch



MOTOR MERCH The latest tech for on and off the track

WHEELS



þ

Lens experts Leica and car design house Zagato have teamed up to produce these limited-edition aluminum binoculars, which come with a swanky leather case. *leica-camera.com*

Leica Ultravid 8x32 Edition Zagato



Alpinestars Tech-Air

Proven effective on racetracks around the world, the Alpinestars Tech-Air airbag system is now available for both road and off-road use, with a range of compatible jackets. alpinestars.com



Vitesse AuDessus wheels

The carbon-fiber customizer offers OEM-spec, one-piece wheels for current Lamborghini, Ferrari, McLaren, Bugatti, Porsche, Mercedes and BMW models. vitesseaudessus.com

OFF THE GRID

Honda's MotoGP tech hits the streets

In the hands of current champion Marc Márquez, Honda's RC213V has become a mighty force in MotoGP. Now the Japanese manufacturer has decided to tap into the marketing potential of the young Spaniard's double-championship success with a road-ready derivative of the bike that has propelled Márquez, Dani Pedrosa and Casey Stoner to victory on the racetrack.

Changes in the new RC213V-S take into account both legal requirements (headlights, plates, catalytic converters) and the operational demands of running the machine without a full garage crew in a chase vehicle (starter motor, steel discs). Muddying the waters slightly, Honda is also releasing an optional closed-circuit package for those who don't want to stray so far from the bike's racing roots. While the street version generates 156 hp, the sports add-on increases that to 212 hp. Not quite the 235 hp-plus of the MotoGP bike, but more than ample for the track-day enthusiast. *honda.com*



Circuit racers will want the sports package, which ups the power to 212 hp.



GOING, GOING, GONE

Lotus steps up the speed

For those who prefer their aggression on four wheels, the new 3-Eleven is billed as the quickest production Lotus ever. Since the original Elise in the mid-'90s, the British firm has riffed on the extruded aluminum tub theme with a variety of low-volume, high-performance models. The 3-Eleven tops the lot, taking the supercharged Toyota V6 engine of the Evora and ramping it up to 450 hp. A limited edition of 311, it comes in road and track guises. The latter adds a sequential gearbox, aero package and racing seat with sixpoint harness, and, according to Lotus, has a 0-60 mph time of under 3 seconds. *lotuscars.com*

Sherlock Fans of the BBC's imaginative take on Arthur Conan Doyle's brilliant detective will have to wait until 2017 for Season 4. To fill the void, there's an offbeat, one-off

COMING **ATTRACTIONS** The best new entertainment to binge on

Christmas special where Benedict Cumberbatch's Holmes and Martin Freeman's Watson are plonked back into Victorian-era London. pbs.com

APP Bike Unchained

This arcade-style racing game pits you and a team of elite riders (including Rachel and Gee Atherton) against a big corporation that is planning the destruction of your favorite natural bike tracks. The freeto-play app is available now on iOS and Android. redbull.com/games



FILM Krampus

A Christmas movie with a dark twist, Krampus sees a family's holiday torn apart (literally) by the eponymous creature—a goatlike demon billed as the "anti-Santa Claus." Based on Alpine folklore, this quirky horror show will be scaring up cinemas starting December 4. legendary.com



FILM

STRIKING BACK

As the new Star Wars movie hits theaters, here's the lowdown on this year's biggest release

So, there's a new Star Wars installment ...

Sure is. The Force Awakens is the sci-fi saga's official "Episode VI" and the first Star Wars movie since original creator George Lucas sold his production company, Lucasfilm, to Disney in 2012.

What's it all about, then?

It's the start of a brand-new trilogy, following original heroes Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and Princess Leia (Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher) as they help a new band of rebels fight the First Order—a military power risen from the ashes of the Galactic Empire.

Who are the series' newbies?

Our new heroes are rookie Jedi Finn (John Boyega), headstrong "scavenger" Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac), the "best freaking pilot in the galaxy." On the dark side, there's the Darth Vader-like Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), the sinister General Hux (Domhnall Gleeson) and supertrooper Captain Phasma (Gwendoline Christie).

That's a lot of new costume potential ...

Oh, and don't forget BB-8. The Force Awakens' spherical sidekick will become everyone's favorite new space droid (see Gear, page 82).

With George Lucas gone, who's in charge? Director J.J. Abrams-the man who revived Star Trek. "To get to play in this playground is an absolute honor." he says, "We're working hard to make a movie that feels as emotional and authentic and exciting as possible." Star Wars: The Force Awakens opens December 18. starwars.com

OLD FRIENDS

Three Star Wars staples we'll be welcoming back

Chewbacca

Han Solo's fuzzy Wookiee companion—dubbed a "walking carpet" by Leia.

And there's a new look: Kylo Ren's crossguard blade has already caused a stir online.

C-3PO and R2-D2

The odd-couple droids are the only characters to appear in all seven Star Wars films.



R2-D2 and C-3PO contemplate the new droid in town. When their friends got into a brawl outside a Manchester club in 2005, Theo Hutchcraft and Adam Anderson wisely decided not to join in and discussed music instead. Four years later, as synth-pop duo Hurts, they gained more than 21 million YouTube views with the self-made video for their song "Wonderful Life," and their debut album, *Happiness*, sold 2 million copies globally. Following the release of their bigger and brighter-sounding third album, *Surrender*, Hurts reveal the songs that have most influenced them. *informationhurts.com*



Pharrell featuring Jay-Z

Frontin



тн: "There's a simplicity to Pharrell's songwriting and an intricate approach to production that is completely unique to him. We've tried to replicate his technique many times, but it's impossible. This is a great early example of his sound. It's catchy, it's funky and at

the same time unmistakably Pharrell. He's influenced the recent history of hip-hop like no other musician."

Chris Isaak

Wicked Game



AA: "This song has been a big influence on us. We've stolen the chord progression about 16 times and no one has ever noticed. It also features one of the most beautifully recorded vocals you'll ever hear. It sounds like Chris is whispering in your ear as he sings. To top it all,

CULTURE

'Wicked Game' ends with one of the most devastating lyrics ever: 'Nobody loves no one.' How dark is that?"

Massive Attack

Angel



AA: "For a long period, when I was into wowing women, 'Angel' would be my go-to tune, because it's so incredibly sexy. Also, it had quite an influence on the sound of our new record. We were aiming for the kind of intensity and darkness that this song emits. We always play it at

our concerts before we come on stage. Our sound guy puts it on to get everyone in the mood. It works every time."

Prince

Purple Rain



TH: "If I had to narrow it down to one all-time favorite, it would be this song by Prince, the greatest living musician. What's so incredible about 'Purple Rain' is that when you listen to the song in full, it just gets better and better. It starts out with these brilliant chords, then the chorus

gets you excited, then it goes up and up. In the end, you just can't resist singing along: 'Whoo-ooh-ooh!'"

The Smiths

There Is a Light That Never Goes Out



TH: "This song has possibly the strongest lyrics ever: 'Driving in your car, oh, please don't drop me home, because it's not my home, it's their home ...' As a teenager in Manchester, the Smiths' hometown, I could relate to those words, and they still give me goosebumps. What

I also love about the Smiths is that I didn't know what music they were listening to, because they sounded so different."

THE GADGET

Aumeo

Hong Kong-based start-up Aumeo
Audio has designed the first gadget
that tailors sound specifically to the
listener's ear. When Aumeo is
connected to your music player,
the matchbox-sized device
analyzes your hearing
with a series of simple
tests to personalize
how music is played.
aumeoaudio.com

YES, WE KANYE

At this year's VMAs, Kanye West announced his plans to run for president in 2020. Ambitious, perhaps, but he's not the first musician to dream of leading his country.



Ignacy Jan Paderewski

After a recital at the White House during WWI, the composer persuaded President Woodrow Wilson to support Polish independence. He became his country's prime minister in 1919.



Jello Biafra

Having unsuccessfully run for mayor of San Francisco in 1979, the punk veteran set his eye on nomination as the Green Party presidential candidate in 2000. The less controversial Ralph Nader got the ticket instead.



Wyclef Jean

The Fugees rapper was so serious about his 2010 bid to become president of his home country, Haiti, he recorded an EP titled If I Were President: My Haitian Experience. In the end, he was ruled ineligible, as he hadn't spent enough time there.



Dec. 5 Henderson 250 Trophy Truck Race Henderson, NV

The Best in the Desert Racing Association delivers what it bills: really bonkers races featuring mean-looking trucks on even meaner-looking terrain. There are three races open to the public, by the way, that take place in Henderson: The first one, for motorcycles, quads and UTVs, features three laps around a 45-mile course-in other words, an insane amount of jostling. The second race features Baja-style racers among the competitors and does an 80-mile loop two times. The final race ups that for another lap, 240 total miles, and will feature everything from open wheels to production-style trucks. Our advice? Get your shocks checked. bitd.com



Dec. 3-6 Art Basel Miami

Miami

One of the poshest art shows in the world gets a blingy vibe in Miami, when more than 250 galleries from around the world display their most au courant wares near the beach. More than 70,000 people attend the show every year, which means that all that posh culture is also supported by some very splashy parties, where fine eye candy meets up with fine art. artbasel.com/miami-beach

Dec. 19 College Bowl Season

Las Vegas

Since college football now has a championship playoff structure, it means that college bowl season extends for a whole month. The insanity starts with the Las Vegas Bowl, which could feature BYU against local favorites UNLV. Ivbowl.com

UNLV guarterback Blake Decker looks to pass.



Can you see the dust trail from space? Place your bets in nearby Las Vegas.

Dec. 4-6 Audi Birds of Prey Race Week

Beaver Creek, CO

As if skiing weren't badass enough, the awesomely named Birds of Prey racecourse in the Colorado Rockies is one of the most challenging on the men's World Cup tour, with a lung-busting starting altitude of almost 11,500 feet. Ted **Ligety won the Giant** Slalom last year, taking the title away from France's Alexis Pinturault with a margin of just .18 of a second. beavercreek.com



Dec. 5 SantaCon

Boston

It's a premise that's beautiful in its simplicity: Dress up as Santa Claus alongside hundreds of your soon-to-be closest friends, go on a pub crawl, have a couple beers, then act like a total fool. The best Instagram posts ever are guaranteed to follow. santacon.info

Dec. 31 NYE in NOLA

New Orleans

It's a town already known for its hard-partying ways, so you can bet your beer-soaked T-shirt that New Orleans does it right on New Year's Eve. Big Night New Orleans is an all-inclusive event; one ticket gets you access to open bars the entire night. bignightneworleans.com



Dec. 29-31 SnowGlobe Music Festival

South Lake Tahoe, CA

If you're willing to brave the cold, the SnowGlobe Music Festival is an in-the-know choice for a memorable New Year's Eve, this year with headliners like Jack Ü, Kaskade and Chet Faker. And yes, whiners, some of the shows take place in tents on the campus of Lake Tahoe Community College, so you won't automatically freeze to death. snowglobemusicfestival.com

Dec. 10-13 Dew Tour

Breckenridge, CO



You should never need an excuse to go explore the pristine awesomeness of Breckenridge, but if you want to include watching some big-ticket athletes into your vacation, going during the Dew Tour's only winter stop is the time to visit. There are two locations for events: The Breckenridge Ski Resort will host men's and women's superpipe and slopestyle competitions, while the city's downtown will host all the streetstyle events, as well as concerts and parties. Last year Kelly Clark and Taylor Gold ruled the snowboard superpipe. dewtour.com

SAVE THE DATE

Music, movie and TV events you won't want to miss

3

December

The Wiz: Live

The always-glorious potential of live TV to descend into a total trainwreck aside, NBC's version of Broadway's *The Wiz* should get your eyeballs because of the pipes of the stellar cast, which includes Common, Ne-Yo and Mary J. Blige. nbc.com

11

December

The Ridiculous Six

Adam Sandler movies have done—what's the nice way to put it—not so hot at the box office recently, so it will be interesting to see how this, his first original for Netflix, does. netflix.com

18

December

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

Star Wars! (Please God, let it not suck.) starwars.com

THE RED BULLETIN 989



JUMP OUT OF A MOVING CAR

Every action hero worth his or her salt has done it at some point—avoiding certain death by jumping out of a moving vehicle. But if you were escaping a sinister fourwheeled kidnapping, say, how would you make that leap of faith and live to tell the tale? "In any extreme situation we need to make a decision and react quickly," says Andreas Petrides, one of the U.K.'s leading stunt performers and founder of the British Action Academy. "The key is not to panic-you have to take control and get yourself on autopilot." And with an extensive CV that includes Star Wars. Mission: Impossible and four James Bond movies. he's certainly no stranger to performing death-defying, high-speed stunts himself. "You may be scared and you may get injured in the process," he adds, "but if you follow these techniques, it should keep you from serious injury and save your life." Don't try this at home, kids. britishactionacademy.com

Watch your speed

"The first thing you need to think about is speed. Obviously, the slower the vehicle is traveling, the better. You'll have more control, and the time it takes your body to decelerate is reduced, which will mean fewer impact points to your body from the ground. The faster you tumble, the more friction will be working against your body. Stay alert for any dips in speed."



Pick your drop zone

"The second thing you need to watch out for is surface. Landing into water would be ideal—if it's deep enough and clear of objects then there will be nothing hard impacting your body. Landing on grass or sand would be preferable to tarmac or concrete; harder surfaces allow no give, and the impact and damage to your body could be more severe."

Prepare for landing

"Before you jump, grab whatever you can and use it to help cushion your fall and give you extra protection—extra clothing, jackets, cushions, floor mats... You could even try removing the rear seat and land with it as a pad. Open the car door as wide as you can so it doesn't obstruct your fall. If you hit it, you could bounce and be sent back toward the wheels."

Stay low and loose

"When exiting the vehicle, keep your body relaxed. Do not tense up—this will make the impacts harder and can strain or tear muscles. The lower you can get to the ground the better, as the first impact is normally the worst. Try to face in the opposite direction to the traveling vehicle—this will allow you to roll backwards and stop your face from hitting the ground."

Hold your position

"Keep your chin on your chest, elbows and knees tucked in and legs slightly bent. Both feet should leave the car at the same time or your legs will split. Don't jump up high or out far—this makes the body position more unpredictable on first impact. Always try to land feet first and then on the center of your back to ensure you get the safest landing."



WHAT'S NEW IN NOVEMBER



RED BULL BC ONE WORLD FINAL, **ITALY** Nov. 14, 12:15 pm PDT

Red Bull BC One is the most iconic one-on-one B-Boy competition in the world. Every year, thousands of dancers across the globe vie for a chance to compete in the World Finals. Sixteen B-Boys go head to head in all-out battles on the Red Bull BC One stage, but only one will be crowned the champion.



"Walk It Home" is a music discovery journey of a bluesrock duo from Lebanon uncovering the cultural heart of the music they love. With music as their passport they head from Beirut to the bayou as they embark on a true road trip to discover local blues heroes, swamps, records, gigs and crawfish.



RED BULL KNOCK OUT 2015

Available from Nov. 29

The legendary motocross race Red Bull Knock Out returns to the Schevingen beach in the Netherlands after a seven-year hiatus. Red Bull Knock Out will be the largest and toughest motocross beach race in the world. Amateur and pro motocross riders will fight each other as well as the elements of nature – the sea and the sand.

















STATE

With 2016 set to be a huge year for gaming, we tap into the digital revolution to select the most exciting games, tech and trends coming your way over the next 12 months.

OF PLAY

Star Wars: Battlefront

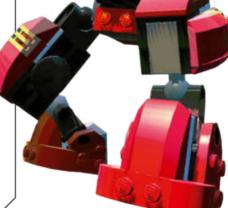
The developers of Battlefield get it right again

Star Wars fans need only glance at the front cover of Battlefront to know that everything will be OK. A huge AT-AT walker towers over a Rebel fighter, while TIE fighters and X-Wings zoom through the Hoth sky. Then there's the DICE logo. As with J.J. Abrams directing the new Star Wars film, The Force Awakens, you're in safe hands with the Battlefield developers. This shooter for up to 40 players allows you to be either a Stormtrooper or a Rebel fighter and

takes you to some of the most famous sights of the galaxy far, far away. Tatooine: tick! Hoth: tick! Endor: tick! To freshen things up, there's also the new planet of Sullust. With the ability to control speeder bikes, X-Wings and the Millennium Falcon, it's a celebration of all things *Star Wars*. And with the right power-up, you can transform into Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader or Boba Fett. **Platforms:** PS4, Xbox One, PC. **ETA:** November. *starwars.ea.com*

LEGO Marvel's Avengers

Following tongue-in-cheek LEGO takes on Star Wars, Indiana Jones and Jurassic World, TT Games turns to the Avengers. Based on the films Avengers Assemble and Age of Ultron, the game also has heroes from the comics. **Platforms:** All consoles and PC. **ETA:** Early 2016. ttgames.com





Tom Clancy's The Division

There's chaos on Black Friday, and it's far more serious than shoppers scrapping over a massive 4K TV in Walmart. A virus has hit New York, and as part of the Strategic Homeland Division, you're charged with fighting the threat of the disease and rooting out the conspirators who spread it. After re-creating Chicago in *Watch Dogs*, Ubisoft has done a great job of building New York, and players will have fun exploring the abandoned open city. **Platforms:** PS4, Xbox One **ETA:** Spring 2016. *tomclancy-thedivision.ubi.com*



Rise of the Tomb Raider

If the PS4 has *Uncharted*, Xbox One has the original treasure hunter in Lara Croft. Well, for one year at least. *Rise of the Tomb Raider* is a timed exclusive, meaning Xbox owners will get first chance to continue the story of 2013's excellent reboot (it will come to the PS4 in late 2016). Lara is in Siberia, searching for the ancient city of Kitezh and the secret of immortality, using her scavenging and survival skills to craft items and take out enemies. She actually gets to raid some tombs, too. **Platform:** Xbox One. **ETA:** November. *tombraider.com*



Mirror's Edge Catalyst

Mirror's Edge was a cool PS3 game. Set in a futuristic city where parkour skills mattered more than shooting enemies, it provided a different angle on first-person action. Catalyst removes guns altogether as hero Faith Connors leaps around the city of Glass in a game that explores her origin story. Platforms: PS4, Xbox One, PC. ETA: Spring 2016. mirrorsedge.com



The new Apple TV

Can the retooled Apple TV rival PS4 and Xbox One for living-room gaming? Well, it looks more likely to mirror the appeal of the Wii—offering family fun for those who love to play games but wouldn't partake in epic nightly Destiny sessions. Popular mobile games like Crossy Road and Beat Sports were showcased at Apple's unveiling, but there are big console hits coming too, including Rayman Adventures, Skylanders SuperChargers and Guitar Hero Live. ETA: Out now. apple.com

Final Fantasy XV

Fans of the game have had a long wait for a new console RPG. FFXV is the first one in the main series since 2010, and it comes with an open world to explore, with a Kingdom Hearts—style battle system so you can switch weapons. **Platforms:** PS4, Xbox One. **ETA:** 2016. finalfantasyxv.com



THE RED BULLETIN 99

GAME ZONE

2016: The Year of Virtual Reality

Forget console wars—there's a VR battle on the horizon

Virtual Reality has come a long way since Nintendo's headache-inducing Virtual Boy, released 20 years ago. PlayStation VR, Oculus Rift and HTC Vive promise to transport you to beautiful HD worlds with their headsets, placing you in the action. **PS4 owners** will be excited about PlayStation VR, out in the first half of 2016, with more than 10 compatible games promised at launch. Sony has already shown off robot shooter Rigs, and, according to critics at the recent Tokyo Game Show, battling Titan in *Final Fantasy* XIV is more immersive than ever. Oculus Rift and HTC Vive both require a **powerful PC**. The former has partnered with Microsoft, meaning every unit will come with an Xbox One controller. It also boasts Oculus Touch controllers (sold separately), which, when used with the Toybox demo, show how far motion control has progressed since the Wii Remote and Nunchuk. The sticks can also be used to control your spaceship as you hunt down enemies in EVE: Valkyrie, while exploring the Antarctic in Edge of Nowhere gives you an idea of how creepy games will be in VR. HTC **Vive**—developed with *Half-Life* creators Valve for the Steam VR platform—allows you to walk around in the headset and fully explore virtual worlds. The promise of 170 VR-ready games in the Steam store will appeal to Valve's huge community. And then there's Gear VR, developed by Oculus for Samsung's Galaxy devices. Is there anyone not getting involved? ETA: HTC Vive, December;

ETA: HTC Vive, December; PlayStation VR and Oculus Rift, spring 2016. *playstation.com*; oculus.com; htcvr.com











Crackdown 3

With its superhuman agents and comic-style visuals, *Crackdown* has always been more OTT than *Grand Theft Auto*, but the third game in the crime-fighting sandbox series pushes the action to ever more ludicrous levels of destruction. The game is set in a hellish, futuristic city overrun by crime, and it gets even more dangerous in multiplayer mode as buildings are destroyed and skyscrapers topple into one another. *Platform:* Xbox One. **ETA:** 2016. *xbox.com*

Nintendo NX

Nintendo is set to release new Zelda and Star Fox games in 2016, but all the speculation is about the company's next console. What we know about the NX, due to be unveiled next year, is that it's a brand-new concept. There are also plans afoot to bring Nintendo's games to smartphones. Mario on the iPhone? Now we're talking! ETA: 2016. nintendo.com



Uncharted 4: A Thief's End

Following on from the classic PS3 action series, *Uncharted 4* sees former treasure hunter Nathan Drake coaxed out of retirement by his long-lost brother to discover the conspiracy behind a vanished pirate colony and its loot. An early look at one of its high-speed chase sequences has already built up a considerable buzz, and if the rest of the game is as exciting, this might just be Nate's greatest adventure yet. **Platform:** PS4. **ETA:** Spring 2016. *playstation.com*

Dark Souls 3

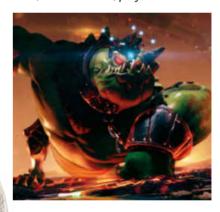
Dark Souls returns in 2016 in another hellishly tough installment—with the medieval world bigger than ever, and the combat faster. Platforms: PC, PS4, Xbox One. ETA: Spring 2016. darksouls3.com





Radical reboots

While some popular series mark their return with numbers (Fallout 4. Halo 5), others have ditched them, signifying a back-to-basics approach. After 20 games in two decades, EA took Need for Speed off the road last year, leaving Ghost Games to reboot the series, and the new game looks wonderful. Meanwhile, Doom's new developer, Bethesda, stays true to the game's gory roots with a Marsset shooter. Then there's Ratchet and Clank, which is more than a remake of the PS2 original, with Ratchet and his robot pal exploring new planets. ETA: Need for Speed, out now; Doom and Ratchet and Clank, spring 2016. needforspeed. com; bethsoft.com; playstation.com



Destiny: Year Two

Destiny: The Taken King kicked off year two of Destiny's 10-year plan in some style. Fixing a few issues fans had with the original, Bungie's third expansion features an improved story and fun new multiplayer modes. What's next? Expect even more expansions next year. **Platforms:** PS4, Xbox One. **ETA:** 2016. destinythegame.com



LEGO Worlds vs. Minecraft: Story Mode

If Minecraft is digital LEGO, LEGO Worlds is LEGO Minecraft, with a focus on creativity. Minecraft itself has a new puzzlesolving Story Mode.

Platforms: All. ETA: LEGO Worlds, 2016; Minecraft: Story Mode, out now. telltalegames. com

Video game movies

Some of 2016's biggest films will be based on hit games, and with credible directors and actors involved, people's perceptions of movies inspired by interactive entertainment could change. First up, for the kids, we have Angry Birds, an animated adventure from the creators of Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. Next is Warcraft. from Moon and Source Code director Duncan Jones, which tells the story of the origins of the conflict between the orcs and humans. And finally, there's Assassin's Creed, an original story that stars Michael Fassbender as the descendant of a 15th-century Spanish assassin. ETA: Angry Birds, spring 2016; Warcraft, summer 2016; Assassin's Creed, winter 2016. sonypictures.com; legendary. com; foxmovies.com

More Halo

Get ready for shooting and strategy in two very different Halo experiences

Master Chief is missing. You could say he's been AWOL for some time—two years have passed since the launch of the Xbox One and only now are we seeing an all-new Halo game—but given that Halo 5: Guardians is twice the size of its predecessor, we'll let 343 Industries off. As players blast through huge levels set up for four-player co-op, the action switches between Master Chief's Blue Team and Spartan Jameson Locke's Fire Team Osiris, who are trying to track down MC and his crew. In the multiplayer Arena mode, due to be showcased at Halo's first \$1 million eSports tournament, four players can team up on one side, while the Warzone mode features massive 24-player battles. And that's not all for *Halo*; in 2016, Microsoft will release Halo Wars 2, a sequel to the 2009 real-time strategy game. This one's developed by Creative Assembly, the team behind the *Total War* series. **Platforms:** Xbox One (both), PC (Halo Wars 2). **ETA:** Halo 5: Guardians, out now;



Unravel

According to game director Martin Sahlin, the red thread that Unravel's hero, Yarny, is made of symbolizes love. And it's hard not to fall in love with the little guy, who looks as if he's just stepped off the Pixar drawing board. Yarny uses his trail of thread to swing, climb and even fly on a kite across landscapes based on the countryside around Sahlin's home in Sweden. Platform: PS4 ETA: Spring 2016. unravelgame.com



New(ish) consoles

With the Xbox One and PS4 approaching their second anniversaries, don't expect any new consoles from Sony and Microsoft in the next year. The former will entice more gamers with a new 1TB Darth Vader PS4, while Microsoft is releasing Xbox One Elite, which features a 1TB solid-state hybrid drive and an Elite controller. ETA: Out now. playstation.com; xbox.com



FIFA 17

You'll probably still be hooked on FIFA 16 for the next 11 months. Once again, we have unrivaled presentation, but the action on the field has been tweaked to improve defending. Expect more improvements next year as EA continues its mission to create the most realistic soccer game ever.

Platforms: PS4, Xbox One, PC.

ETA: Autumn 2016. easports.com





No Man's Sky From a tiny British indie studio comes the biggest game of all time

Hello Games' *No Man's Sky* isn't only one of the most ambitious indie games ever, it's one of the most ambitious games ever, period. Big and bold enough to show off alongside the blockbusters at Sony's E3 show, this PS4 space adventure boasts a huge open universe with over 18 quintillion life-size planets to explore. Count 'em. Actually, don't—apparently, it would take

585 billion years to see them all. Thankfully, then, the aim in *No Man's Sky* isn't to visit every planet but to reach the center of the universe in your ship, which you can upgrade. There's no narrative, as the game is all about exploration—discovering new life on planets and sharing it with the world, trading resources and shooting. Decisions have consequences, though: Attack too many creatures or spacecraft, or mine too heavily, and the police will be after you. **Platforms:** PS4, PC. **ETA:** 2016. *no-mans-sky.com*



Street Fighter V

The first all-new *Street Fighter* game to arrive on PlayStation 4 will also be released on PC and will feature cross-platform play between the two. New characters Necalli and Rashid join the likes of Ryu, Ken and Chun-Li in another unbeatable beat 'em up. **Platforms:** PS4, PC. **ETA:** Spring 2016. *streetfighter.com*

Steam Machine PS4 and Xbox One have a new rival in the living room

Imagine a new game machine with over 980 titles available at launch. Say hello to the Steam Machine, which will change the way we play PC titles. Valve's hardware enables you to play great games from the Steam store on your television using a controller with clickable trackpads and buttons designed to appeal to console and PC gamers. And unlike consoles, you'll be able to choose between boxes from different companies, all compatible with Valve's OS. For example, AlienWare's effort will entice gamers with its NVidia GeForce graphics and a bundle of games and in-game content out of the box. ETA: December (AlienWare Alpha). alienware.co.uk



THE RED BULLETIN 97

MAGIC MOMENT: MAKES YOU FLY





THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS, June 28, 2014

When Jason Paul was a teenager, he used to play video games to study the moves of his favorite pixelated heroes. These days, the German world-class freerunner can do a lot of those tricks even better than his digital role models. Pictured: A jump from an eight-story car park. instagram.com/thejasonpaul

"I've always been fascinated by video games. I wanted to be as agile as Super Mario."

Freerunner Jason Paul, a real action hero

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